

強くて

勇者人気が沸いた時代の
VRMMO奮闘記

一撃で倒すゲーム!

邑上 ● 主水



最強のプレイヤーが、
正体を知りたがる人々を育成中

一流のテクニックと チャートなバグ技で

最初から最強!

大人気のVRMMOに登場する
最強のキャラクター

アスキー・メディア

強くて

とある人気実況プレイヤーの
VRMMO奮闘記

ニューゲーム!

国上 ● 主水



無敵のプレイヤーが、
正体を隠して別キャラクター作成中!

いべりなし、
パラメータは最強、
スキルも少ないと――

一流のテクニックと チートなバグ技で

最初から最強!

大人気VRMMO新傑作アンダー
神速の書籍化!

角川ファンタジー文庫

lang="en">

New Game Plus! - WN Chapter 00-19

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Character's Page

Character notes may contain **spoilers** up until the most recent chapter. If you wish to not be spoiled then read after catching up.

Portraits/Pictures are **initial** Concept Art that I'm too lazy to read the notes for. Actual portraits may vary in the Light Novel edition.

Edogawa Ran – Main Character (江戸川 蘭) In game names: Aran「アラン」,
Edgar「エドガー」
Class: Samurai

Notes: The Number 1 Most Popular Livestreamer in Dragon's Krone. Also a big loner with no friends.

Speech Pattern: Speaks in a variety of ways. Usually polite in real life and more casual in-game.

Refers to females with honorifics (examples: Megu-san, Suzu-san). This excludes Sonya and Usa.

Refers to self as "Ore"

Portraits:

Ran and Edgar

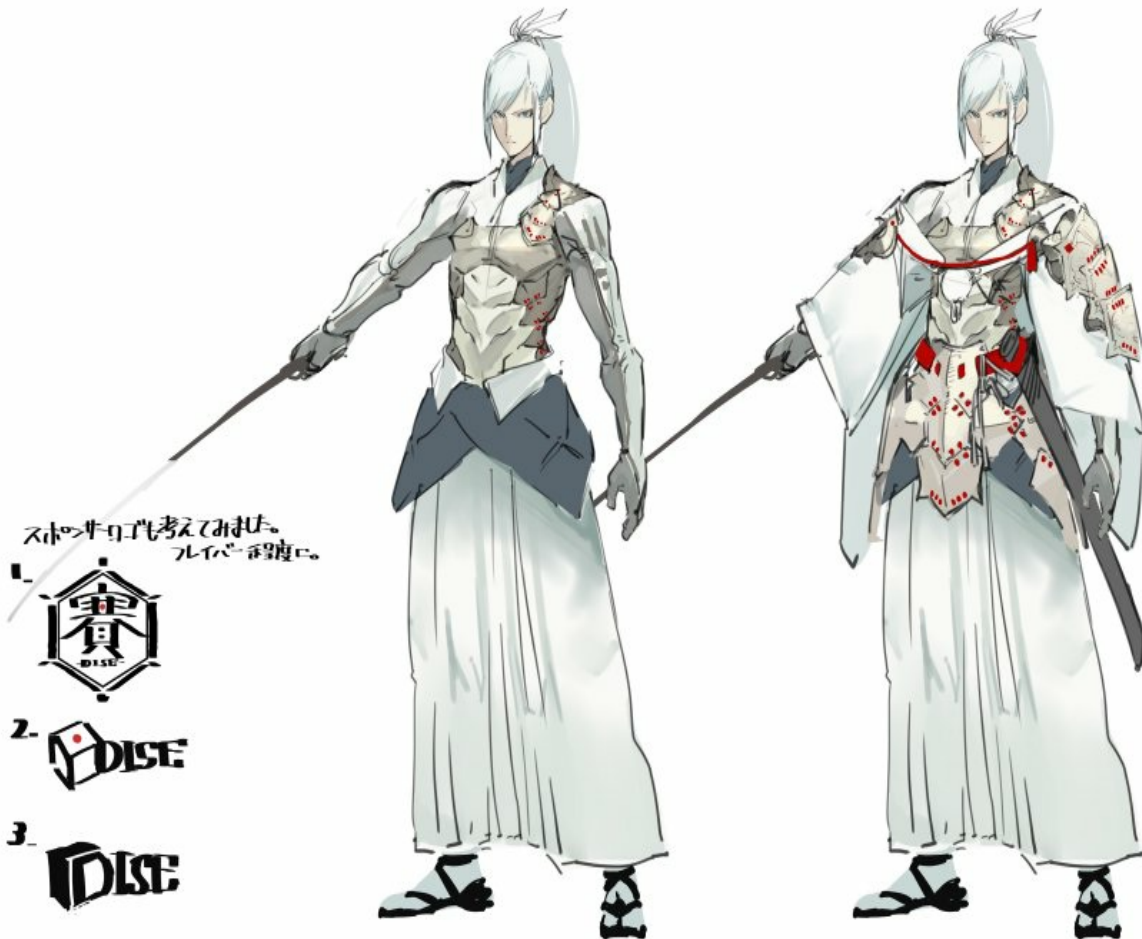
蘭、エドが初稿

エドが、リアルより
若干人相を悪く、
髪もツンツンさせています。



Aran and "DICE" Logo

アラン調整稿2



Sonya (ソーニャ) In game name: N/A

Class: N/A

Notes: Ran's support NPC. As a support NPC, has dual access to both Aran and Edgar's Home House.

Due to Ran's preferences, she is a goth loli elf.

Speech Pattern: Always polite, "maid-like" speech.

Refers to Ran with "-sama" (Ex. Edgar-sama, Aran-sama)

Refers to others with "-san" (Ex. Usa-san)

Refers to self as "Sonya"

Portraits:

Initial Concept

ソニヤ初稿

服装は吸血鬼のイメージをモチーフにして制作。
髪型は真ん中分けのロングヘアを2種類制作。



Ranger Outfit

ソニヤ(随行時)初稿

この衣装は2種類制作。



USA

In game name: USA (Pronounced as Usa (ウサ) from Usagi (ウサギ))

Class: Samurai

Notes: Beginner Player who started playing because she admired Aran. Works at an Apparel Company.

Speech Pattern: has a tendency to elongate the ends of her sentences. (ex. “Desu yoo”, “Desu ka neee”)

Refers to self as “Watashi”

Momo (モモ) In game name: N/A

Class: N/A

Notes: Usa’s Support NPC/Companion. Instead of a human-type, Momo is a small black cat.

Speech Pattern: Speaks timidly and in an informal.

Refers to self as “Ore”

Often mimics Usa’s words with slight variation.

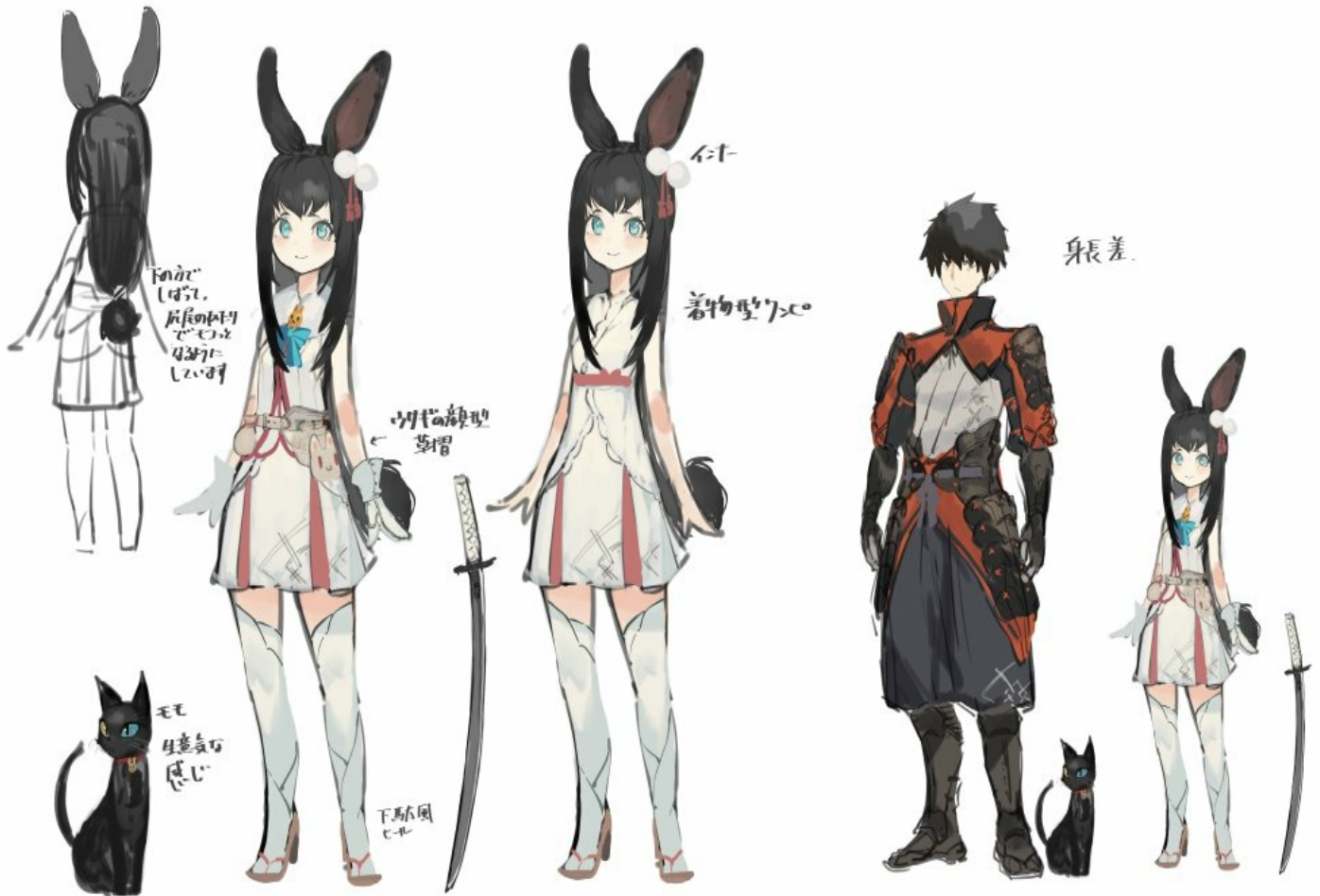
Refers to Usa as “Goshujin” (Master)

Portraits:

Initial Concept (Usa and Momo)

ウサ初稿

ほんと見待ほやないですがよく見るとちいさい侍の特徴があるイメージです。



The Classroom Bunch

Ninomiya Suzu (二ノ宮 すず) In game names: Suzu「すず」

Class: Cleric

Notes: The “Fair Beauty” of the school. Popular with both males and females.

Speech Pattern: Always polite

Always adds honorifics except with Megu (examples: Edogawa-kun, Andou-kun)

Refers to self as “Watashi”

Portrait:

Initial Concept

すず初稿

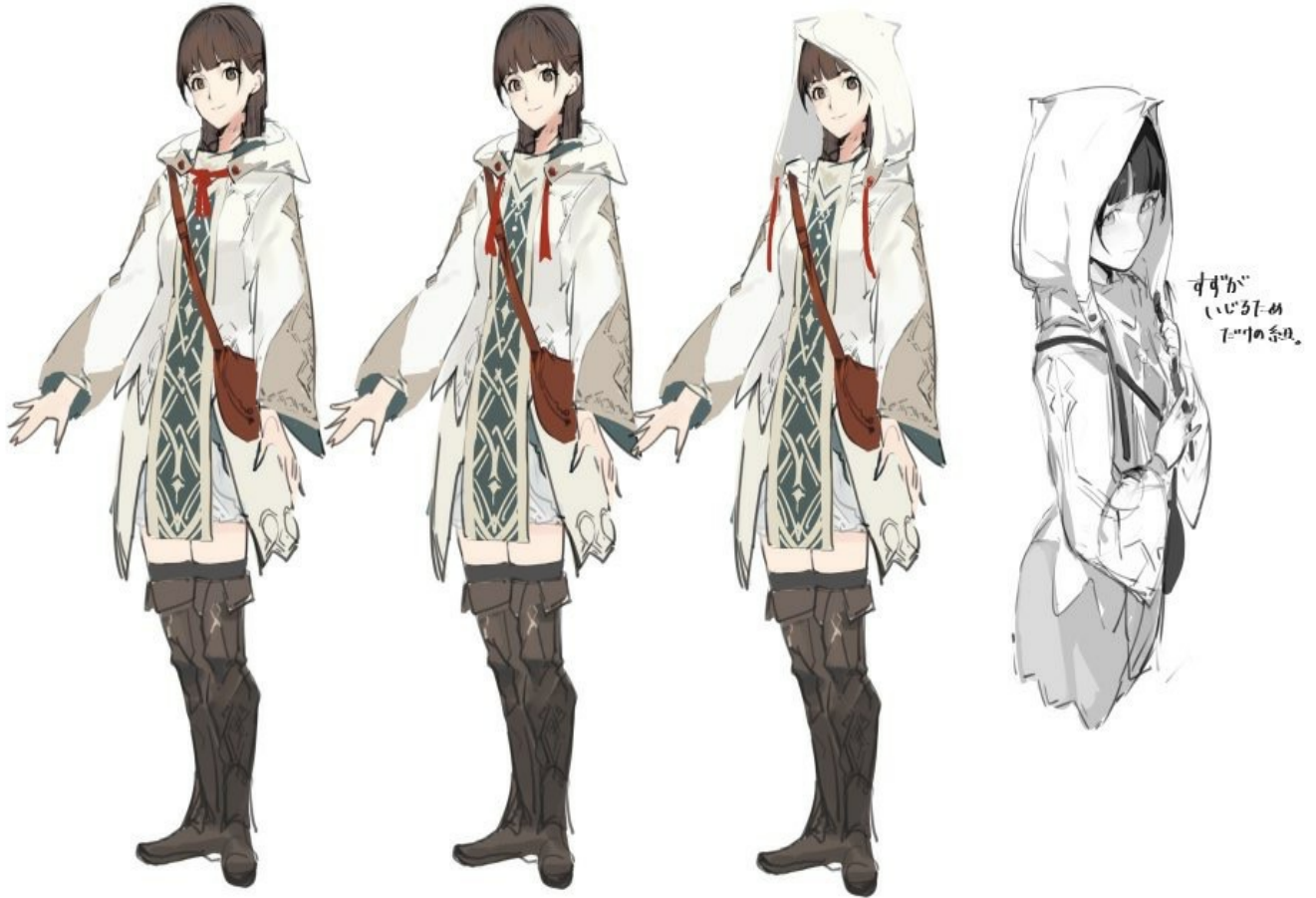
回復職ですが冒険者感も出したかったと思いデザインしました。



すず 調整稿

首のリボンを外しまして代わりにフードに紐を付け、
リボンの様に糸ミドリで縫える様にはい。

押し絵⑨のラチェットでフードに縫い付ける感じを
強調したいので追加です。



Sasaki Megumi (佐々木恵) Nickname: “Megu” (メグ)

In game name: Megu (メグ)

Notes: Suzu’s friend. The happy-go-lucky energetic one of the bunch.

Speech Pattern: Casual in-game, even more casual in real life.

Does not use honorifics.

Refers to Ran as “Ed”.

Refers to self as “Atashi”

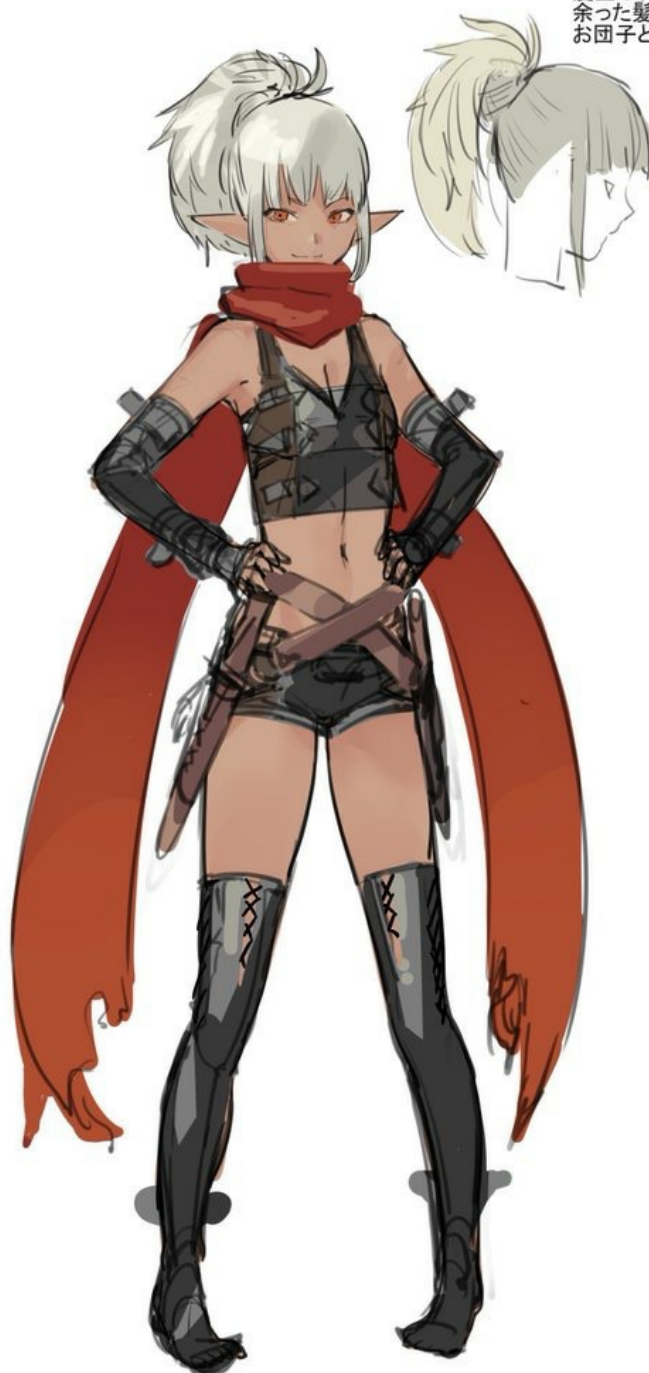
Portrait:

Initial Concept

メグ初稿

チャキチャキな感じを前面に出してみました。
アバターの色味が単調すぎるかもしれません

髪型はお団子にまとめて
余った髪を上から出しています。
お団子とポニーテールのハイブリッドな感じ



メカ調整 + 加筆

マフラーを紫系の色に変更します。

前回のデザインが気に入らなかったので、
エドナ様に細部を詰めてみます。



Class: Fighter

Notes: The calmer of the two boys.

Speech Pattern: Semi-casual

Refers to females with honorifics (examples: Ninomiya-san, Megu-san) **Portrait:**

Initial Concept

アボウ初稿

男子3人の中では一番いい体をしていると思います。

アボウのほうは設定に「バーバリアン」「狂戦士」、ほく、とおもったので、露出多めで装備もモンスターの毛皮素材にしてあげた。他4人と比べると少し毛色が違うので、気にならばほうご指摘ください。片手剣はグレイデーターが持っているおなじ、幅広で短い剣です。



Class: Knight

Notes: The charismatic “playboy” of the group.

Speech Pattern: Casual

Does not use honorifics (examples: Megu)

Portrait:

Initial Concept



Other Supporting Cast

Igusa (葦草) Notes: Ran’s older brother. Does not play games, is the polar opposite of Ran. Likes to go outside and plays many sports.

Speech Pattern: Casual

Refers to self as “Ore”

Ramirezi (ラミレジィ)

Notes: Light Novel Original Character (Volume 2)

ラミィ

60年代のファッションセンスを
思い出して、ファントムの衣装
着物を着せてみました。
右手使いは ほどけやすい。



Antagonists

Supreme Dragon: Drake (Ha-ryuu Drake) (覇竜ドレイク)

覇竜ドレイク イメージ
直球な感じですよ。



Timberu (ティンベル) Speech Pattern: Rude
Refers to self as “Ore”

朧 初稿

呪術師の基作りといた工程です。

瞳以外は、耳少しだけ作り、
首と手足を長く伸ばして、デッサンを出しています。



Volume 1 LN Illustrations

For Color Character Portraits See The [Character's Page](#)
Color Covers



とある人気実況プレイヤーの
VRMMO奮闘記

"Tsuyokute" New Game!

邑上 むらかみ んど 主水

無敵のプレイヤーが、
正体を隠して別キャラ作成!?

レベルは1、
パラメータは貧弱、
スキルも少ないけど――

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大人気VRMMO冒険ファンタジー、
待望の書籍化!

アルファポリス

Cover V2



Character Introductions



Aran VS Drake



Prologue: This Man, is a Popular Streamer

It's that time again. Time for a NEW PROJECT! I'm actually really hyped.

Here I present "*New Game Plus! The Struggles of a Popular VRMMO Livestreamer*" or as I have stylized "*Livestreamer's New Game+*" (I'm open to suggestions on what the "short"/stylized name should be).

The synopsis and ToC can be seen [here](#). The VRMMO setting is nothing too special, but for some reason I just **can't stop** reading it. Maybe I just like the genre too much. Either way, I still think it's a nice change of pace for me. I especially like the supporting cast of characters and the world building. Most of all, I plan on using a different translation style for this story so it will be fun trying to figure things out.

As for the translation status, I honestly want to make it a main project. I've already spent a lot of my time reading it so might as well TL as I do it. We'll see how the feedback is after a couple of chapters. Also, apparently this novel is getting a light novel adaptation.

Anyways, Onwards to the Prologue. Enjoy.

Side note: I didn't include footnote links during the story since they would break immersion. I'll try to make it so you remember what they were/why they are there without a redirected link.

Prologue: This Man, is a Popular Streamer

In these barren wetlands, among the tall tall grass, stood a single man. With shimmering silver hair than ran down his back, his body was covered in pure white armor that matched it in color. In this mist-filled wetland, the visibility was low, the dampened air made it an unpleasant place to be. But, the man paid no attention to these minor details. Clearing his mind of all idle thoughts, he waited for the opportune moment. Waiting for what resided beyond this fog, Waiting for the giant shadow to

appear.

The air shook.

The man moved.

The man reached his hand out, grabbing the katana that was sheathed in the black saya on his back.

Grasping onto the hilt, he let loose the blade.

The katana's edge was so beautifully crafted that it could send chills down your spine. You would not think that it was real.

—Yes, It was not real.

That katana, the wetlands, the tall grass, and even the unpleasant atmosphere— They were all a fabrication of the mind, taking commands from a program. It was all fake.

The man stood in a virtual world, he was in the VRMMO「Dragon's Krone」. He was just one of its players.

『Record it!』

In the corner of his eye, a pop-up window was displaying a message.

『OOOH, Time to get excited!』

More and more messages kept rapidly flooding in. Quickly glancing at them, the man then shifted his view to a different window.

Menu, Broadcast—

Being displayed in a new window, with a slight time-lag, was a reflection of what the man saw at this very moment.

「..... Alright, this should be OK to stream」

As the man whispered to himself, he looked in the corner of the window to see a number that was wildly multiplying.

That counter displayed the number of Listeners. It easily flew past the five digit count, and showed no signs of stopping.

That, was the amount of players that shared the same view as the man..... In other words, that number represented the number of other players who were watching the man's「Broadcast」.

「Okay then, Let's get things started」

『OOOOOOOH! WE'VE BEEN WAITING!!』

As if signaled by the man's voice, the Listeners watching his broadcast were passionately sending in their comments.

『Eh, perhaps, are you going to fight with only that much Health?』

Reflected on the broadcast screen was what looked to be the man's Health Gauge. It was almost depleted, blinking a dangerous red color. That red color, in short, meant that the man was already in a perilous situation.

「Of course」

In response to that comment, the man made no notion that he planned on healing.

The man instantaneously activated several Skills.

Converting damage into additional attack power, the「Samurai」Class Skill: 【Invincible War Technique】; The near-death skill that gives status boosts: 【Perseverance】—

With a surge, red flashes surrounded the man, and from it came a power that enhanced his body to the utmost limits.

『ARE YOU SERIOUS!?!』

『HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES, HERE IT COMES!』

『Good Luck!』

A bustling message window.

Then, the mist swayed. The air trembled.

That was proof that the「Enemy」had appeared.

「.....O Foolish Little One」

From beyond the mist, came a low and ghastly voice that shook the earth. And, two bright red eyes shone through—

With the trembling of air, the mist parted away, and stood there was a tremendous Dragon with jet-black wings.

「However, I shall praise you for making it thus fa-」

「Ah, Skip」

Interrupting the dragon's words with his own, as if time itself had stopped, the

dragon's movements were frozen stiff.

『Skipping the Event Scene』

An inorganic digital voice replied back.

And just as this voice spoke, the sound of the dragon's roar pierced his ears and blew away the surrounding mist.

An exclusive skill for those of Dark Element,【Kindred's Roar】—

Over a few seconds, it was a fearsome skill that could cause surrounding players to lose consciousness. But it won't work on I who has the Skill【Hearing Isolation】.

With a tiny smirk on his face, the man kicked off the ground with his left leg.

With a bang, the mud around his feet shot up into the sky.

It happened in a single instant, but the man's figure was already nowhere to be seen.

『HERE COMES THE MOON STEPPP!!!』

『SO COOL!』

The image being displayed to the audience changed to an aerial view where it captured both the dragon and the man.

Followed by a ring of light, the man stood before the gigantic dragon's feet.

The man cut through the dragon's boulder-like foot.

As blood flew into the air, the dragon began its counterattack.

Flapping its wings towards the sky, the dragon swung around and, using its giant tail like a whip, it aimed for the man.

The incredible shockwave produced made the air tremble, but once again the man disappeared.

『UOOHHH!! It's amazing no matter how many times I see it!』

『WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!!』

Endless messages of praise came streaming through the pop-up window like a waterfall.

「Make sure not to blink!」

As if toying with it, the man ran past the dragon's left foot and appeared below its belly; he ran to the other side by slipping underneath it. The katana sliced through the soft underbelly, and again a whirl of blood spewed forth.

Such an intense attack violently shook the dragon's torso, It's balance crumbled. But, that was the time for it to strike the man with it's next attack. Before the man's eyes, he could see flickering flames escaping from the corners of the dragon's mouth.

In the next instant, a hell-flame engulfed the wetlands, evaporating all of the surrounding moisture— An instantaneous release of【Dragon Breath】 left the soil in ruins.

A blaze of hot air spread out. The tall grass was turned to charcoal. As if boasting, the dragon let out a loud triumphant roar towards the heavens.

『You can't be serious!!』
『Is it..... over?』

Thinking that there was no chance of survival, unrest began spreading amongst the Listeners.
However—

『NO, THERE! ON IT'S BACK!』
『OOOOOOO!?!』

In the broadcast footage was a white shadow.
The man hung onto the dragon's back.
Piercing his katana between the black dragon's scales, he avoided the hell-fire without a scratch of damage.

「I'm not done yet!」

Trying to shake the man off it's back, the dragon went into a wild frenzy as it twisted it's body. But again, that light came forth.
Effortlessly weaving between the dragon's talons and fangs, splatters of blood and the ring of light danced in the air.
It was like a giant black shadow struggling against a tiny white spirit.

『OOOOOOH!』

The camera chased after the man at blistering speeds.
Winding to the right, Dodging to the left— The dragon continued to rampage while high in the sky, but it could not separate itself from that light.

「Haaa-!!」

The man wore a natural smile on his face as he cried out.
Sprinting atop the scales, the man evaded the dragon’s attacks as he aimed for that one place. The place that controlled this giant’s body; It’s head.
Then, faster than it could react, reflected in the dragon’s red eyes was the man; his armor formed a white wall before the dragon.
The man took his beloved katana in hand, and fluidly sealed it back in it’s saya.
Then, all of a sudden, a ferocious fang shot out of it.
A technique that sacrifices defense for offense, the「Samurai」Class skill: 【Battōjutsu】—
Along with a glittering effect, materializing above the dragon’s head was a number; a damage counter that was in the six figures.

『OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOHHHHH!!』
『HE DID IT!!!』

Sounding the end of the battle, the dragon’s death cry echoed out. The enormous dragon feebly fell over and perished.
What was said to be the one of the strongest boss monsters in the VRMMO game「Dragon’s Krone」: The Supreme Dragon Drake. This was the moment when the “Popular Livestreamer” 「Aran」soloed it.

Footnotes:

TL note 1: Since Aran uses “Samurai Class” skills, I’ve decided to leave the “sword” and “scabbard/sheathe” as their Japanese equivalents of “Katana” and “Saya”, respectively.

There were other complex/technical terms of the Katana mentioned, like ‘Hamon’ for instance, but I translated them for clarity.

TL note 2: The first skill “Invincible War Technique” can be translated more accurately into “Kongou/Vajra Martial Arts”.

Dissecting the term, Vajra is a representation of a diamond and a thunderbolt. Together it is both Indestructible (Diamond) and with Immense Power (Thunderbolt). In a religious context, Vajra also represents “indestructible truth”. (And yes, it is spelled the same way as the Kongou-class warships.

Although those were named after a mountain).

The “War Technique”/”Martial Arts” portion of the word refers to Middle Age combat techniques used by members of the military and samurai. These war techniques are not just limited to hand-to-hand but also include other forms of combat such as swords, spears, guns, horseback riding, *etc.*

TL note 3: Battōjutsu is the old term used to describe “The art of drawing out the sword”. Nowadays it’s called iaijutsu. While iaijutsu can be used for sport, think of Battojutsu to be the more deadly, combat orientated version.

Edit: After the author converted the prologue into digest form, she changed the skill Battojutsu into “All or Nothing”.

TL note 4: The name Aran is pronounced like Allan. I specifically chose to spell it Aran to help prove a point in a later chapter.

/ [Main Page](#) / >>

Chapter 1: The Popular and The Lonely High-schooler (Part 1)

The synopsis and ToC can be seen [here](#).

Some of the “streaming”/”internet” terms differ from English to Japanese so forgive me if some of them are incorrectly translated.

I plan on releasing chapter 2 this weekend, maybe Sunday.

As a side note: For this series I am trying to improve my writing skills so I will NOT be putting speaker quotes unless it is relatively confusing to know who is talking. Most of the time it is clearly stated but I will try to write dialogue in a way were you can tell who it is based on their personality.

Volume 1: New Game+

Chapter 1: The Popular and The Lonely High-schooler (Part 1)

By utilizing [Dragon’s Krone]’s dedicated streaming servers, which entirely focused on distributing video content, there were a large number of 「Live Players」who recorded their own personal footage.

Livestreaming, although it was simple and easy to view someone’s stream, Dragon’s Krone had implemented a system that directly benefited the streamer themselves.

That was, the ability to collect in-game currency from Listeners: A viewing fee. Anyone who plays Dragon’s Krone can purchase a「Broadcast Limitation」by using in-game currency. If you placed the broadcast limitation on a “Saved Broadcast” , then people can only view that saved broadcast if they pay the broadcaster a viewing fee with in-game money.

This 「Livestream Game」 produced a lot of popular Web Content and, although it was a system that utilized in-game currency, this simple form of compensation was well-received among the livestreamer community. Wanting to be a part of this new wave of interest, real world companies began sponsoring popular

livestream players. This gave birth to so-called “Pro Gamers”.

『YOU ACTUALLY KILLED ITTT!』

『Congrats!』

『Well, didn't I say it would be easy for him?』

As Aran sheathed his beloved Katana, comments carrying words of praise flooded in one after another and filled the popup window.

Although the Listeners continued to restlessly comment, Aran took a deep breath as he sized up his prey.

The「Supreme Dragon Drake」that Aran had defeated, it was a diabolical boss Mob that countless players have challenged so far but all were met with despair and none have ever defeated before.

At the start of the battle it would fire out a 【Kindred's Roar】.

Invalidating all physical attacks for a set period of time【Centuria Ⅲ】.

Bouncing back all magic during a period of time【Reflector Ⅲ】.

Without any cast time, a wide area explosion that caused immense damage【Dragon Breath】 And stopping your movements with the skill【Evasion】.

[\[1\]](#)

And many more skills like those. Along with absurdly brutal abilities given to it by the developers, till this day the number of players who had successfully defeated it was completely non-existent.

And yet, that Supreme Dragon Drake was not only defeated, but it was defeated single-handedly without even teamed up in a party. As expected, after witnessing such an amazing feat before their very eyes the Listeners didn't sit back awestruck and instead sent in a frenzy of comments.

「I thought I was done for when it used the zero cast time【Dragon Breath】, but I somehow managed to defeat it」

With the Dragon's corpse behind him, Aran turned around and gave a smile to the camera as if taking a picture of himself.

『The Drops! What items did it drop!?!』

『Tell me what the Dragon's weak points areee!』

In the window, feverish messages kept coming in and showed no signs of stopping.

Looking at the comment window that scrolled at violent speeds, Aran reflexively closed it and removed it from his sight.

He could roughly guess the contents of those overflowing comments after all, and it was also impossible to read each and every one of them and reply on the spot.

「The key point in beating it, I guess it would be dealing with the【Kindred's Roar】 at the start. If you don't have at least one person in your party who can use the skill【Hearing Isolation】 then your party will crumble in an instant. After that..... Let's see, the brutal【Dragon Breath】 and【Evasion】. In order to lower the damage I recommend the fire resistance equipment from『DICE』」

‘You can buy it at my social shop so I look forward to seeing you’, Aran kindly informed them.

「DICE」, that was the name of the Men's Apparel Brand that sponsored Aran. In exchange for financial backing, Aran was sponsored so that he could promote the brand name and the products of DICE.

And, as part of their advertisement strategy, DICE produced products that had a dual purpose in the game. They produced in-game equipment with original designs that were geared towards high level players; serving as a marketing tool while also being practically useful.

DICE was not the only company who decided to interlink their marketing strategy with Dragon's Krone.

From video game peripheral makers, to other companies like automobile makers and toy makers, a large variety of companies made contracts with and sponsored Players. Their influence in the game came in many different forms and it is still spreading even further.

Up until now there has been many failures trying to establish the relationship between「Games and Advertisements」, but Dragon's Krone was an open environment in which marketing companies could flourish in their own different shapes and forms.

「If you want more details then please check my blog later. For those of you Listeners who haven't subscribed yet, I encourage you all to subscribe to the channel and to the e-mail magazine updates. Who know, maybe the next issue of the e-mail magazine will have a hint on how to defeat the Drake.....」

Leaving behind some superficial words, Aran energetically waved his hand. At Aran's words the message window was once again went into a crazed frenzy, and the viewer counter started revolving at extreme speeds as if it was broken.

「Well then, May we meet again during the next broadcast. Adeus![\[2\]](#)」

Saying his usual words of farewell, Aran's figure slowly disappeared as the broadcast video faded-out.

Reflected on the broadcast screen in place of Aran, was the business Logo of DICE.

After confirming that the broadcast status had been changed from Online to Offline, Aran quietly opened the menu, and he ended today's broadcast.

* * *

With the broadcast ended, Aran withdrew from the exclusive combat Battlefield where he fought the Supreme Dragon Drake. Making use of Fast Travel, he teleported to his own private area which prevented trespassing by other players: his「Home House」.

With a thatched and slanted roof, the front entrance was decorated with a magnificent *Karahafu* design that would make you think「This must've cost a hefty sum of money」. The ambiance emitted from Aran's house would make you forget that this was a Fantasy world; it was a house that embodied the essence of a splendid and traditional Japanese Samurai's abode.[\[3\]](#)

「Welcome home, Aran-sama」

When Aran set foot in the main building, he was sent a greeting from a young girl.

The person waiting for Aran at the front entrance, she had flawless white skin and long black hair. Dressing herself in a Gothic Lolita outfit, an Elf that looked as if she was the perfect depiction of a doll. Her name is Sonya.

Sonya was not a character being operated by a human player. Assisting in the Home House Support System, helping during manufacturing and maintaining the players Social Shop. She was a Support character that could even assist the player in combat, A Non-Player Character, an NPC. Incidentally, this support character could be customized in a variety of ways by using in-game currency or real world money. The setting of Gothic Lolita Elf was

just one of Aran's preferences.

「I'm back, Sonya. Anything happen while I was gone?」

「The inventory of the display item in the Social Shop, The『Blizzaria』Series, has greatly diminished」

「Oh, Did it? I thought that it would sell pretty well, but still, I guess I should contact DICE and get some more stock」

「Since the end of Aran-sama's broadcast, access to the Social Shop has increased 320% from the previous day. The number of purchases total 10,654. For further details, please access the Social Shop's analysis feature in order to review it」

The Blizzaria Series, like Aran mentioned during the broadcast, was a series of equipment manufactured by DICE that possesses a high level of flame resistance. Different from the real world, the concept of 「Stock Inventory」 does not exist in the virtual world of Dragon's Krone, but this was different story for the marketing companies. That is because, in order to determine the number of marketing goods that could be sold as items, the real world companies have to pay the administrators of Dragon's Krone a 「Media Expense」.

Items that are sold in-game, aside from the ones that need to be purchased with real world money, those in-game items pretty much turn players wearing them into walking billboards, so paying the Media Expense is essentially making an appeal for goods and services.

In other words, players that wear a company's goods openly advertise their brand, essentially like an in-game fashion show.

This was the main reason as to why Apparel Makers such as DICE are the primary type of company that enter into this marketing strategy. Another major factor is because Apparel Makers have a rather high affinity for using a VRMMO as a media for advertisement.

「Anything else?」

「There is one video that has yet to be uploaded. There are also 150 unread messages in your mailbox」

「Understood. Let's leave the video and messages for later..... For now, please open the item box」

「As you wish」

Sonya gave a short bow, and a new window popped up in-front of Aran's view. In Dragon's Krone, items and money you obtain is stored in the individual player's item inventory. If you get attacked by Mobs or other players and die, then all the items in your possession get converted into Objects, and they end up as drops at the place where you died.

Items in your Inventory cannot be stolen, but once they get converted into Objects, not only can other players grab it, but even the surrounding Mobs can pick them up and retrieve them.

In other words, once you die all those items are lost. As a means of insurance against such an event happening, each player has an item storage-place in their Home House known as an「Item Box」.

「Let's see here」

Looking over the numerous items dropped by the Supreme Dragon Drake, Aran's eyes were sparking as he chuckled to himself.

「Drake's Scale」 and「Dragon's Fat」,「Jet-Black Horn」 and「Kindred's Blood」. Each and every one of them were of the highest rarity;「Legendary Class」 materials.

If key items are also among the ingredients, then the shops in town should be selling a Recipe for them. With that Recipe you can manufacture weapons and armor. It would be best if they could be made into equipment for my class,「Samurai」, though.

While daydreaming about making all-power equipment, before logging out, Aran took a look at the shop and confirmed the inventory. Thinking of the fun times to be had next time he logs in, Aran transferred the items from his Inventory to the Item Box, and then he opened up the「Rankings」window.

「Displaying the Rankings」

Along with Sonya's announcement, a list of Players was being displayed—This was, a Rankings list for streams based on their viewer count.

In Dragon's Krone where livestreaming was heavily endorsed, the game's greatest players, they could easily be identified by looking at the highest ranked streamers on this Rankings list.

The most skilled players will naturally attract viewers to their livestream. Other than looking at how high their character's Level is, this was another method to

measure the true strength of a Player.

「No change in the lower rankings, huh」

Sliding past the ranking to see the top 30, the display soon stopped on the names of the Top Ranking Players.

「As usual, Aran-sama is number 1 in the daily rankings」

「Well, of course I am」

「How magnificent. As expected of Aran-sama」

With a slight grin on his face, Sonya's words of praise only elevated Aran's mood.

On the monitor was the number of viewers for his broadcast; it surpassed the 2nd ranked player's view count by almost two-fold.

Up until yesterday there wasn't that much of a gap between 1st and 2nd, but this must be due to the subjugation of the Supreme Dragon Drake.

Even so, he couldn't let his guard down.

The current No. 2 Ranked Player「Cloche^[4]」 was a Female Player.

Her technique and skills were of the highest level. And on top it all, she was a Cool Beauty so she gathered a rather large fan-base. As proof of that, apparently the Apparel Brand that sponsored Cloche reportedly had a massive increase in sales ever since they brought her on-board for advertising.

If you are wondering why I know so much about her, it is because I, too, am one of her fans.

「Open the Mailbox」

「As you wish」

Having done a rough scan of across the Rankings list, Aran began operating the Mailbox.

A new window popped up, and all the mails that have piled up were being received one after another.

「The mail have been filtered and the one's deemed dangerous have been marked for deletion. If any of those mails look important, then please exclude them from the filter and transfer them to the inbox」

「You're a lifesaver」

The majority of the 150 unread mails were from messages from fans who saw the stream or read the blog.

There are some messages among them that had offensive language, but since Aran planned on personally replying to every single mail individually when he got the time, he separated them and placed them in the box labeled「Players」. Since he was sponsored by DICE, he couldn't just rudely ignore any message. One day, it might be better if he used Sonya's automated reply function to help deal with them though.

「Next is.....」

Swiftly readjusting his gaze, all that was left were suspicious looking mails from unknown senders that Sonya had marked for deletion.

In Dragon's Krone, there has been an increasing number of problems where Players who are sponsored by companies get maliciously harassed.

This is known as「Account Hacking」.

Account Hacking is just what it seems like, it is a method by which people illegally obtain your Dragon's Krone account information. It has gotten to the point where Players who illegally obtain account information are subject to criminal charges.

Account Hacking comes in many different forms, but the most common one is hacking through mail.

They attach an item to the mail, and once it gets opened it installs backdoor malware (an illegal program) into the VR console. The next time you Login, they steal away your account info.

As a result, before you send an attachment in Dragon's Krone, it is common courtesy to confirm through voice chat that you really did send it. As such, for suspicious looking mails that Aran wasn't contacted about, he simply threw them into the trash bin without even reading the text.

「By the way Aran-sama, is it really okay that you haven't logged out yet?」
「Eh? Ah, crap, it's already this late」

The clock on the edge of the display was showing that the time was close to 10 pm.

After this he will have to update his blog and edit today's livebroadcast before

putting it in the archives; this will take about 30 more minutes. Even if he logged out now, it he wouldn't be able to go to bed until about 11 pm.

「.....Seriously, this sucks」

Aran grumbled those words.

In the real world his expression was scanned and the face of Aran's avatar changed to that of a frown, as if exposing the displeasure nestled deep in his heart.

The thing that Aran found annoying, it wasn't having to update his blog or having to upload the video to the archives.

For him it was the most detestable thing— It was the signal that he had to separate from this world; the signal that he had to return to “Reality”.

「*Haaa*..... I *really* don't want to go to **school**」

During his livestreams Aran's true appearance was never shown.

In the world of Dragon's Krone, Aran was an extremely popular livestream player; so popular that there is probably no one who didn't know his name. The number of other players who just want to be his acquaintance are as countless as the number of stars in the universe. If Aran sent out applications to players who wanted to go hunting together with him, then most likely an insane number of applications would come rushing in to the point where they couldn't even be processed.

However, in the real world he was nothing like this.

Here in the real world, even if he tried to gather people together— No one would come.

In the real world, Aran was “Edogawa Ran”; a high schooler..... and in addition he had absolutely no friends; a high schooler that could otherwise be called a「Loner」.[\[5\]](#)

「Try your best, Aran-sama. Sonya will always be here for you, awaiting as I look forward to Aran-sama's return」

「Sonya.....」

In a graceful manner, linking her hands in front, Sonya gave Aran a warm smile. Sonya's words, they were like blessed rain falling down onto this parched and dry desert. They spread out and permeated deep into Ran's soul.

A Loner High-schooler, for someone like Ran, Sonya was an irreplaceable refuge of 「Healing Comfort」.

TL Extra note: It said the his viewer counter “kept revolving as if broken” as in it was going up... But personally if someone soldout so hard on stream I would flip a table and just ragequit

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: A Centurion is a professional soldier in the ancient Roman army. The kind of shield they used were vertically long shields called [Scutum](#). I assume the skill “Centuria III” is a reference to those types of shields.

Also note: although one of the Dragon’s skills is called “Evasion” it does not help the dragon evade, but instead stops/hinders the movement’s of the players. Kinda the opposite of what you think “evasion” would mean.

[2.](#)

TL note: Adeus is Portuguese for “good-bye”. In the original text there is furigana that says that Adeus is supposed to mean “See you later”.

[3.](#)

TL note: Here’s a good reference to what Aran house might look like. Picture [Here](#). A Karahafu design is the “triangle” part of the front entrance.

[4.](#)

TL note: “Cloche” is a French word which means “Bell” in English. The name in Romaji for “Cloche” is “Kuroshie”.

I am debating if I should use Kuroshie or Cloche for her name so yea... I really want to put Cloche since it has some significant later in the story but it sounds weird so Maybe I’ll make a poll down the line for readers to choose.

[5.](#)

TL note: The Kanji for “Ran” means “Orchid”. In flower language an Orchid is a symbol of perfection and wealth... Not sure if it applies in this case though. Ran is

probably more related to the name Aran.

Chapter 2: The Popular and The Lonely High-schooler (Part 2)

Just a little rant. Usually I don't care about ratings and I understand how some people could dislike my other series but seriously, the characters haven't even been introduced in this one. And yet there are 6 one star and 3 two star rating on NU. They were probably the same people who give my other series 1 star but still, What is there to even hate? Nothing even happened yet, and there's hardly any characters to dislike. Just trying to wrap my brain around it.

To clarify, I'm not asking for better ratings. I'm asking for a reason for the low ones.

Enough with the rant though. Enjoy.

Side note: I added a "Status" Page for those of you who want to check. I'll probably be posting a lot of Livestreamer for a while though.

Volume 1: New Game+

Chapter 2: The Popular and The Lonely High-schooler (Part 2)

For Aran, For Edogawa Ran, it has been 3 years since he came across the world of Dragon's Krone.

By nature, Ran was a person who preferred to do things alone. Since he had few friends, once Ran heard about the grand unveiling of the VR console「UnChain」 he was instantly hooked.

A new device that constructed a virtual world directly in your brain,「UnChain」. By giving specific stimulation to the 5 senses, it could create a visual using your sensory organs and project the image into your mind; a new kind of「Brain Machine-Interface」.

Attached to a reclining chair was a hood that contained the relatively small VR console UnChain. Sitting down in the chair, if you booted up the main device then you could immediately Dive into a virtual world.

Being a device that defied our common perception of the future, mass media was in a big fuss about it. Up until now other attempts with technologies involving naked eye 3D imaging and AR (Augmented Reality) have been met with a multitude of failures. There were many who thought that UnChain would follow down the same path and most held cold-hearted opinions of it. However, the introduction of a certain “application” made all the naysayers do an about-face.

That application was developed alongside the UnChain-Project, It was the game application「Dragon’s Krone」.

In the game you become an Avatar, it was a virtual fantasy world with swords and magic. Appealing to both casual and hardcore players, gaming fans were all captivated by it. Dragon’s Krone caused UnChain to become popularly widespread, and this gave rise to the sensation known as the VR Boom.

「Haaa.....」

In a certain remote prefecture was Kasumigaoka High-School. During lunch break, in a classroom filled with cheerful laughter, left all alone by himself was a young man breathing a heavy sigh.

This was a sight you would never imagine if you came from the game world; the sight of the pitiful「Loner」Edogawa Ran.

In the world of Dragon’s Krone, a tall figure with silver hair, and with genderless facial features, he possessed a beautiful form that like a painted picture. But for the Ran in the real world this did not hold true. His looks were nothing special, just your average boy with black rimmed glasses.

During their 2nd year, the students were shuffled into new classrooms and half a year has passed since.

The people in the surroundings had already formed groups, but for Ran the number of students gathered around him— was Zero.

For Ran who only ever tasted bitterness during lunch time, being here made him feel like a snail desperately trying to cling on to a rocky surface. This was his daily routine, patiently enduring while lying motionless.

「2 more periods..... Only 2 more periods and it will finally be over」

Ran absentmindedly looked over towards the window. As if offering up his prayers, he whispered those words to himself.

Once I get home I will check out what equipment could be made from the Drake's raw materials. If there's something worthy of crafting then let's immediately shut ourselves in the crafting room.

Oh yea, that's right, before I do that I have to contact DICE and make a request for more of the Blizzaria Sets^[1].

Based on my conversation with Sonya it seems like there might be a boom in sales, so it would be best if I sent a mail to the people in charge at DICE to let them know ahead of time.

Thinking about those things, Ran quietly took out his smartphone. In order to contact DICE he opened up their Dragon's Krone "My Page" that he had bookmarked.

「Hey, did you see yesterday's broadcast?」

Just then, suddenly reaching Ran's ears, was the conversation of one of his classmates.

「Broadcast..... You mean Aran's broadcast? Of course I did. It was awesome huh」

「Totally. Ya know, I almost ended up screaming」

The topic of his classmate's conversation, was Dragon's Krone..... and moreover it was a conversation about Ran's other half, Aran. Because Dragon's Krone did not have any age restriction, there were many Players in high-school. The fact that there were Players among his classmates, this was well known to Ran.

「Did ya hear? According to the rumors, Aran is a high-schooler just like us, you know that?」

「Eh, seriously? He must be getting a ton of money from DICE, Aran that is」

「Being able to make money from a game.....It makes me totally jealous」

The two were having an interesting conversation. But for Ran who didn't have the courage or the guts to join in on their conversation, he continued on as usual and sat there quietly, only listening with perched ears.

「But ya know, with such insane skills and techniques like that, He must be a complete game addict^[2] huh」

「Probably. Even if you earn money, to sacrifice your personal life like that... It

sort of makes him pitiful huh」

「.....ツ!」^[3]

Due to the two's conversation making an unexpected turn, Ran unintentionally showed a frown on his face.

Hmph, if you want to speak ill of me then do so all you like. You and I live in two different worlds.

It's true what you said, in the real world I am socially challenged and can only do things like eavesdrop on my classmates' conversations. But, in the other world, I have many things that money can't buy.

Also, the one thing that I won't **ever** do is talk to you about Dragon's Krone. *I, I play Dragon's Krone too. "Ohh, what's the name of your character?" Well, the name's Aran but—*

It's true if I did something like that then I might gain some people who seem like friends. But if you knew that I was Aran then what kind of things will you demand from me?

By becoming Aran's friend you probably just want to feel superior to others, or perhaps you want my knowledge, or maybe— they probably want money. Really, it's completely absurd.

That's why I don't want any friends in the real world. Friends are Unnecessary.

「Andou-kun, Yamabuki-kun」

As Ran talked to himself in his heart, in that moment, the once heavy and gloomy aura in the room gradually started to transform.

The atmosphere was so different that you might have thought that a spring breeze was blowing through the classroom. The clear voice of a young girl brushed against Ran's ear.

Ran involuntarily shifted his gaze to the source of that sound and what met his eyes was, being illuminated by the radiant sunlight shining through the window, a female student with long chestnut hair and big round eyes—

Wearing a blazer, one could say that it was an image perfectly befitting of a female student. She was「Ninomiya Suzu」.

「Oh, Ninomiya-san」

「Umm.....Regarding the thing from before, did finish looking?」

While slightly leaning to the side, she called out to the two male students who were having a heated conversation about Aran.

Gently using her pinky to comb aside her ruffled hair, the gesture was so sensuous that you wouldn't think she was someone their own age.

Immediately averting his gaze from her, Ran's pulse had quickly escalated. Because of the 2nd year class shuffle, Ran and Suzu were now in the same class. Suzu was, despite being reserved and somewhat of a late bloomer, she was a girl who earnestly tried her best at everything she did. Although it was nothing extraordinary, her looks were refreshing and charming. With a polite and calming ambiance about her, she was a student who embodied the words「Fair Beauty」. Many students both male and female were captivated by her. Ran, her loner classmate who was always in the background, was also one of these people.

「Oh, that's right. Sorry. Not yet」

「It doesn't matter when for me, but Megu keeps going on and on saying that we'll do it today. The Members, do you think you can find them?」

「Eh, by today? For the Grand Mission」

The male student known as Andou casually threw out a certain terminology. Once he heard it, Ran's heart leapt into his throat.

.....Just now, did he say「*Grand Mission*」?

By Grand Mission... there's no way that they could be talking about the Grand Mission in Dragon's Krone right?

Gathering together a large amount of players at once, all of them would try to complete the same quest, The「Grand Mission」. There should've been an announcement saying it would start soon but.....

「Was there anyone else from the other classes who played Dragon's Krone?」

「Well ya know, there are some, but they probably already joined some other party right?」

「Someone who's still left... I'm sure there must be at least one person」

Saying “Let's go through them one by one,” Andou and Yamabuki began naming off students in alphabetical order.

Egashira, Igarashi, Inoue, Uchida, Katou—

However, the name “Ran” did not come from their mouths, and they continued

down the attendance list until they reached the last name「Watanabe」.

「.....Nope, can't think of any」

「Wonder what we should do~」

Little by little the mood coming from the two seemed like they gave up hope. Ran was desperately trying to hold down his beating heart that felt like it was about to explode.

Judging by their conversation, that means that Ninomiya-san played Dragon's Krone.

If so, then the same could be said for the other two classmates—

「Ninomiya-san, is there really no way other than searching in other classes?」

「.....Yeah, it might be a bit difficult. Megu^[4] keeps insisting that she doesn't want to do it unless it's with people we know..... Sorry for being a bit selfish」

「I know what ya mean. I wonder if there really ain't some other guy who plays too」

Right here.

There's a classmate who plays Dragon's Krone sitting right here.

Completely forgetting that he had just declared in his heart「Friends are unnecessary」, Ran was nervously squirming as if he wanted them to invite him. But, although things could be swiftly settled if he simply just raised his hand at that moment, Ran was a true-born loner with a communication problem.

In his mind he thought that even if he did something so grandiose such as raising his hand, surely his voice would not reach those two.

There would always remain that one meter distance. Ran would never be able to close the distance between him and Suzu's group even if space itself became warped.

As if ridiculing Ran, the sound of other students having fun and laughing came through the window.

The time would soon come for lunch break to end.

The lunch break that Ran desired to end would soon be over—

However, today's lunch break was different from all the others.

「Uhmm.....You're Edogawa-kun.....Right?」

Gently, those few words came from the voice of Suzu.

And, from her mouth came, as if answering his cursed prayers of「Invite Me」, she called out Ran's name—

「*Fuee!?*」

Honestly believing that his name would never be called out, letting out a hysterical voice, Ran so vigorously turned his neck that it might snap off. Maybe I heard it wrong, Ran thought for a second. However, facing him was the gaze of Suzu, informing him that he was indeed not mistaken.

「Edogawa-kun, perhaps, do you play Dragon's Krone?」

「.....eh?」

An unsightly voice crack came from Ran.

In spite of them not once having spoken to each other before, Ran could not hide the shock he received from finding out that Suzu actually knew his name. But, the question that came out of her mouth struck Ran with an even heavier blow.

「Huh, are you serious?」

As Ran and Ninomiya Suzu were mutually facing each other, Andou called out while looking doubtful.

「Edogawa..... You play? Wait, why does Ninomiya-san know that?」

「Well, look, his smartphone」

「Smartphone? Oh, I see.....」

Suzu pointed her finger at the screen of the smartphone that Ran was holding in his hand.

Displayed on that screen, was a “My Page” from the Dragon's Krone website. The moment the three's gaze turned towards his smartphone, Ran immediately tried to delete the image from his screen... but he was too late.

「You seriously play Dragon's Krone!? There's absolutely *no way* I would've guessed」

「If you are viewing a My Page, Edogawa-kun, then that means you have a Dragon's Krone account, right? 」

「.....*Uuu*」

As if he was a mole being dragged out from underground, Ran, who suddenly found himself as the center of attention, was frantically looking around in a panic.

Somehow, aren't I in a *whole lot* of trouble right now?

By showing off a My Page like that, it looks as if I wanted them to invite me.

「But ya know..... If you really do play the I guess you'd be good enough」

「Yeah. But you're right, we can't go on without making some sacrifices」

「.....ツ!」

These guys..... They keep saying「But」, what the hell is that「But」suppose to mean.

I don't come cheap you know.

Up until now I wasn't sure if I was going to join in or not, but now I know for sure that I'll refuse.

「Hey, Edogawa-kun」

「Y-yes」

But, again, brushing against his ear was the soothing voice of Suzu.

Just like she did before when she called out to Andou and Yamabuki, Suzu leaned forward slightly with her head tilted to the side.

Not for anyone else, that gesture was done only for him. The dark angry cloud that was swirling around in Ran's mind, like clear mist descending on the water's surface, that dark cloud was blown away and everything became pure white.

「If you would like, that is, if you don't mind」

Suddenly finding Suzu directly in front of him, Ran's pulse hastened even quicker, his throat instantly became dry and scratchy.

And, without noticing Ran's panicked state, Suzu continued.

「Would you like to play Dragon's Krone together with us?」

Signalling the end of lunch, the bell let out a high pitched chime.

That chime, as if annoyingly clear, as if urging him onward, it resonated throughout the classroom.

「Gladly」

Frozen on the spot, Ran stiffly nodded his head.

This lunch break that he always wanted to end, the lunch break where he thought only brought pain and anguish, today he experienced the start of his high-school life. And this is only the beginning.

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: In the last chapter I accidentally translated [Blizzaria] as “Blizzard”. Blizzaria is the correct translation and I corrected it in chapter 1 already.

[2.](#)

TL note: The original word for “game addict” is written as “Invalid/Disabled Player”. In context, an Invalid Player is someone who is so addicted to games that it gets in the way of their daily lives, to the point where it is considered an “obstacle” and a “hindrance” to their every day living. It basically turns them into non-functioning people of society, like a NEET (although he still works and goes to school).

[3.](#)

TL note: The ツ! is a glottal stop which actually doesn’t make a sound. Think of it as “the sound of surprise” or like a random exclamation point appearing on the person’s head. There will be a lot of there’s in future chapters.

[4.](#)

TL note: Normally Megu would be translated as “Meg” but I refuse to use that name so I will go with Megu. Even moreso because it is a nickname.

Chapter 3: Sub-Character

The good news just keeps on coming! A couple of hours ago Murakami Mondo-sensei, author of Livestreamer's New Game+, just announced that the Light Novel adaptation is now confirmed! It will be going on sale May 24th (5/24) under the well-known publisher Alpha Polis! As usual, Congratulations to Her and here's a second release that I tried to squeeze out today.

Look forward to the novel, and Enjoy!

Side note: April is the month of celebration apparently. Also, the switching between 3rd and 1st person gets even more intense in this chapter.

Volume 1: New Game+

Chapter 3: Sub-Character

When I came to my senses, I was already at home.

After Ninomiya-san called out to me, although I have absolutely no idea what I said in reply, in the end today I, it ended up with me playing Dragon's Krone with Ninomiya-san and the others.

You can't be serious. **Me** playing Dragon's Krone with people I know in real life, I will be doing that...

To be completely honest..... I'd rather not have the real world encroach onto the world that I live in.

Even though it should've been impossible, Even though I've never even spoken to those classmates before..... but playing together with *that* Ninomiya-san...

—Isn't that something to be happy about?

「Why do you have a giant grin on your face? It's kinda creepy」

「.....ツ!!」

Being suddenly called out to, Ran's body instantly froze up.

Standing in the 2nd floor hallway of his house, with short cut hair and healthy skin that was tanned by the sun's rays, and wearing a sleeveless shirt that

matched his toned body, his brother who was the polar opposite of Ran. He was Igusa^[1].

「Did something good happen to you?」

「N-No, not really」

Shit. I was totally caught off-guard.

Ran tried to conceal his broad smile by returning his face to the usual blunt and unsociable appearance.

「Hmm~, Well I guess that's fine. The fridge downstairs is out of drinks you see. Is it alright if I grab one from your's?」

「Sure. More like, it's fine to grab some whenever you want, you know? I always keep telling you that」

「Well~, just waltzing into the room of a growing boy is a bit awkward. Also, you're room, there's a bunch of things I can't go touching, right? 」

As I insisted that the *only* thing in there that couldn't be touched was machinery, Igusa was loudly chuckling as he replied.

Although Ran and Igusa were not all that close as siblings, Igusa was one of the few people in the real world that Ran could have a genuine conversation with.

「By the way, are you in good shape? With 'That' I mean」

「'That'?」

「You know, That」

Taking out a water bottle from the double-door refrigerator, Igusa pointed at the VR Console UnChain that took up the majority of Ran's room.

「Well, good enough that I won't get dropped by my sponsor」

「That so. Even though you're quite a big source of income for this family, don't get too wrapped up in it okay?」

The financial support coming from DICE, as Ran was still under-aged, it was being deposited into his parent's bank account.

Of course, unlike the usual parents who「Hang on to the New Year's money you get from relatives」, the money was used to pay for the maintenance cost of the UnChain console and other things related to Dragon's Krone. In addition it was used on a PC used for editing videos and updating his blog, books and magazines

used for to take a breather, and purchasing movies and anime. Ran was allowed to use it on anything he wanted.

But even still, the financial support from DICE was enough to pay for the Edogawa family's mortgage three times over and they would still be left with a surplus. It was a true fact that Ran played a large role in his family's finances.

「Aniki, are you interested in trying it too? You already found a job, so I'm sure you have plenty of free time」

「Me? Nah, no way. I suck at games after all. I'm more of the type who likes to move my body around」

Aniki's hobbies included surfing, snowboarding, and road biking. Earlier he even said that he joined a futsal team^[2].

「I, I won't force on you or anything, but if you want to then let me know」

「If I want to huh..... You, will you buy another one? One of these」

「If Aniki really wants to」

「Nah~, if I caused so much trouble for my little bro then I won't be able to hold face. Let's keep things as they are, the only think I need from you would be these drinks」

With a smile, Igusa said “Thanks for the drink~” and he left Ran's room. Responding with “You're welcome,” Ran watched his back while feeling somewhat envious.

Ran, himself, would never go out of his way to invite someone else to play Dragon's Krone with him, but Igusa was different.

Different from the indoors (or rather, the shut-in) Ran, Igusa had a preference for the outdoors. Maybe he was just good at being considerate, but rather than considering Ran as 「The little brother who's a popular livestreamer sponsored by a company」and boasting to others about it, and rather than looking at him with scorn and disgust, Igusa treated Ran just like an ordinary little brother. At the very least, this made Ran's heart feel at ease whenever he was with Igusa.

「.....Well, enough of that」

Ran remembered that he was currently at his wits end trying to deal with things. There was no time to worry about Igusa.

Would you, like to play Dragon's Krone together with us—

Once again recalling Suzu's soft voice, a myriad of wild delusions began to run rampant in Ran's mind.

Although there were the names of 2 troublesome male students, and another female student joining them, Ran would be meeting Ninomiya-san in the world of Dragon's Krone.

If it was just Andou and Yamabuki then there was no way this would ever happen.

But, the person who asked me was not them, it was Ninomiya-san.

That would mean, Ninomiya-san doesn't view me as the「The disgusting classmate who should be ignored」but instead as the「Well, it wouldn't seem like any harm so why not play the game together」, she sees me as that level of a classmate.

「.....Yeah, it must be something like that」

As his delusions continued to spring forth, Ran's expression grew looser. But, if Ninomiya-san seems me as a classmate on the level of「It should be fine to play the game together」..... Then did she really have to go and invite me, a man, by herself?

No, if I were Ninomiya-san then there's no way I would invite me.

If she personally invited me, then that means「I, I always wanted to talk with Edogawa-kun」Doesn't that mean that I'm on **that** level of classmate?

「This is, perhaps..... Does this mean that I'm close to my debut as a Riajuu^[3]?」

Being pulled left and right by his wild delusion, Ran made great strides to finally arrive at a common ground.

And so, suddenly filled with enthusiasm, Ran hopped out of bed and, like a pilot scrambling into the cockpit, he slid right into the chair that housed UnChain.

It was as if he had just entered DEFCON 1.

The time that Ninomiya-san had set for them all to meet was in One Hour. The rendezvous destination would be in the beginning town「Crescendo」. Yesterday Ran logged out in his Home House, so he had to hurry up and Fast Travel there—

「.....Aa」

Lowering the hood of the reclining chair, as he was about to boot up UnChain, Ran brought his hands to a stop.

「Wait, my Character, what should I do about that」

In order to play Dragon's Krone with Ninomiya-san (and her other friends who were just hindrances) obviously an in-game avatar was necessary. My Avatar, I only have Aran to choose from.

For a second, Ran thought of logging in as Aran, but he quickly dismissed the idea.

If they found out that I was Aran then things will end up getting troublesome. It would probably be fine for Ninomiya-san, but if the others found out then they would most likely try to demand many things from me.

If they were only people that he met online then he might be able to manage something, but since they were classmates that he would see everyday at school, it probably won't be possible to run away from them.

.....What a troublesome bunch.

If it's only clearing the Grand Mission, then just I should be enough to accompany Ninomiya-san.

「Can't be helped. I guess I should make a new character huh. Well, it's in order to find out why Ninomiya-san invited me on the Grand Mission after all, and it would be best to have a character that's close to their level.....」

Thus, as he was saying those words to himself, Ran once again stopped his hands.

And then, the multitude of delusions in Ran's mind were suddenly blown out of the water.

The reason why I was asked to participate in the Grand Mission—
That's right. The reason why Ninomiya-san called out to me, it was in order to gather the minimum amount of members necessary to participate in the Grand Mission. As it were, I was only there to balance out the numbers.
In other words, after we finish the Grand Mission, Me and Ninomiya-san will no longer be「People who play Dragon's Krone together」but instead we will return to being「just classmates」.

What the hell...

Rather than「I want to talk with Edogawa-kun」it was more like「In order to participate in the Grand Mission, I'll put up with having to deal with the gross

Edogawa-kun」, doesn't that make me the lowest of the low?

「.....Haaa..... Now I *really* don't want to go」

Abruptly losing all of his motivation, Ran breathed a heavy sigh. Maybe he should just ignore the others, Ran was thinking of logging in as Aran and taking a nice stroll around.

All the better if Sonya was there for him, doing her best to cheer him on. As if finally resolving himself, Ran pushed the switch and powered on UnChain.

『Welcome, To a World Not Bound By Limits』

Along with an announcement, Ran's consciousness slowly began to fade. An optical hallucination as if his body was slowly sinking into the ground. In the distance, a light from somewhere was flickering. This was something that he had experienced a countless number of times, The entrance to the world of virtual reality.

『ID and Password confirmed. Welcome back, Edogawa-sama. Activating the application "Dragon's Krone"』

With a flash, he felt the sensation of passing through a tunnel. At the same time, he body was suspended in the heavenly sky. His body took the full brunt of the wind, the sweet scent of the trees and the Earth reached his senses.

『Please Select Your Character』

Reflected in front of Ran was Aran, the avatar that logged out of his Home House last night. However, Ran just stood there silently without confirming his「Decision」. At that time, He was recalling the dazzling smile of Suzu who earnestly looked at him back in the classroom. Even if it was just to balance out the numbers, Ninomiya-san..... That Ninomiya-san, she was counting on me—

「..... Fuck it. I've decided」

A light sensation came from Ran's body, and he flew far off into the distance to a certain city.

What came into his view was not the sight of his Home House, but the city that

all new players visit upon their arrival, the city of「Crescendo」—

『Creating a New Character』

Reflected in front of Ran's eyes, was the nostalgic sight of the character creation screen.

* * *

Dragon's Krone more or less had an overarching story. By clearing the quests given to you, it was possible to pursue down the storyline.

After being attacked by the Dragons, many countries suffered great losses. The rulers of those countries called out to the Players, called out to The「Dragon Hunters」, and they requested that the Dragons be subjugated. The story went something like that.

『In order to live in the world of Dragon's Krone, an Avatar will be created. After it is created, changes cannot be made so be careful in your decision』

After being politely guided by a female voice, an inorganic surface appeared, and standing on top of it the figure of an Avatar.

This was the “Me” in this virtual world.

Presently, the figure was displaying the default settings, but it was possible to change and customize the Avatar to anyway you see fit.

The hairstyle, down to the color of the hair, to the eyes and mouth, shape of the nose, the overall silhouette and even the placement of the cheekbones. It was possible to modify and change a large variety of characteristics.

However, Ran did not tamper with those settings at all.

「Load an image of my body from a 3D Scan」

『Command Confirmed. Activating the UnChain Scanner. Please wait one moment』

And so, after a short time had passed, a bubble of light enveloped the Avatar and changed it's shape.

It was as if a replica of the real world Ran had appeared, it was a somewhat plain Avatar that didn't stand out much.

I'll end up immediately deleting it later, so it should be fine as it is.

『Is the current setting all right?』

「Okay」

『.....The settings for your Avatar has been established. Please Enter Your Name』

Being asked the next question by the announcer, Ran stopped for a while to think.

It might be fine to just go with「Ran」, but that is a bit too similar to Aran, so I'll pass on something so direct like that.

As such, I'll also pass on the name「Edogawa」.

Edogawa.....edogawa.....edoga.....

「.....In Katakana, the name『Edgar』」

『"Edgar". Understood..... It is possible to create that name. Is this name all right?』

It was the same way with Aran, but quite honestly I have zero naming sense. [\[4\]](#)
Letting out a small sigh, it was now impossible to separate the real world Ran from his virtual reality self.

「Okay」

『Your Avatar has been created. Lastly, Please choose your Class』

Surrounding Ran in a circle were a number of small avatars who looked similar to his own.

All of them were clothed in extravagant equipment that were exclusive to each Character—

In terms of Character Creating, this was the most important setting: Selecting a Class.

From the orthodox attack classes there was the「Fighter」, and the class that specializing in mid-to-long distance attacks「Wizard」. The occupation which provided healing「Cleric」, and the class that could call forth many spirits「Summoner」—

The various avatars were swirling around Ran, but without hesitation he stopped the rotation on a single class.

The Class:「Samurai」—

It was the same class as his main character Aran; a class that focused on dealing massive amounts of burst damage by using powerful attacks.

In Dragon's Krone, unlike your average RPG game, it was an MMO that had a high amount of fast paced action.

Especially during a battle, you weren't able to casually open up your menu, and without any signal such as「It is Now Your Turn」, the situations were always changing in real-time.

Rather than your normal action RPG^[5] that only gave you an instant to make a decision, Dragon's Krone was closer to a Fighting Game, but because of that it allowed for the fostering of individual technique. Of course this also applied to battles against Mobs, but this meant that even if your character level was low it was possible to compete against other individuals as long as you made use of higher level techniques.

Since this Avatar was fated to be deleted on completion of the Grand Mission, Ran figured that it would be best to choose the same class as his main character in order to make full use of his knowledge and practical skills.

『Settings Complete. Now then, Let us journey to the world of “Dragon's Krone”』

Again, with a light sensation, Ran's body was assaulted with the feeling of being suspended. Ran's vision narrowed, and as if he was being sucked inside, he flew into the Avatar in front of him.

For a while, all was dark.

And then, he felt as chill as if he was plummeting from above.

『Welcome to Dragon's Krone』

Along with the heavy sensation of his feet hitting the ground, Ran's Avatar「Edgar」now stood in the familiar world of Dragon's Krone.

TL Extra Note: Ran... don't let your delusions get the best of you.

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: Igusa's name is the flowering plant [*Juncus effusus*](#) and is commonly known as Soft Rush or Common Rush. It is the type of plant that is used to weave tatami mats and sometimes grows near the waters edge (keeping in mind that is

last name is Edogawa like the river).

Like Ran (who's name is orchid), he is named after a flowering plant but Common Rush is more widespread and can grow in various places, sometimes becoming an invasive species in farm lands. Serves as a good contrast huh.

[2.](#)

TL note: For those of you who don't know, Futsal is like small scale indoor soccer/football.

[3.](#)

TL note: A Riajuu is someone who "has a fulfilling and successful life (outside of the internet)". In general it is used as a term for the opposite of an otaku.

[4.](#)

TL note: The name Edgar comes from Ran's last name of Edogawa. Instead of EdogaWA he changed it to Edoga-R.

In a similar fashion, Aran is just "A + Ran"

[5.](#)

TL note: This last part that said "Action RPG" was spelled as Action PRG in the original text. I assume this was a typo so I made the fix (unless PRG is suppose to mean program or something). There are other typos in the early chapters but I'll point them out regardless.

Chapter 4: Our First Grand Mission (Part 1)

Turns out chapters 2 and 3 needed a bit more proofreading. Oh well, Here's more chapters instead. Was going to hold on to it until tomorrow but whatever. Figured I should keep this show going.

Enjoy.

Side note: Lightly edited. Since this series won't be having many speaker indicators (or none at all), I will eventually be adding a Character Page that shows how each character talks. Like casual vs formal, *etc.*

Volume 1: New Game+

Chapter 4: Our First Grand Mission (Part 1)

What met Edgar's eyes, was a nostalgic landscape.

This was the first town you visited after descending into Dragon's Krone, The City of Crescendo.

Crescendo was located in the southern portion of the Dragon's Krone world; a small port city built atop sandy hills.

The setting was that the Players washed up on the shores of this port city Crescendo and are foreigners to this land. After learning the basics Players would then leave this city, and then become employed as Dragon Hunters by some far off country.

「Sure brings back memories」

The moist air.

The wind carrying to scent of salt.

Numerous fishing boats casting off into the sea.

I haven't been in this town for a long long time. But, even if I haven't visited this place in ages, the people of this port city never change.

「Well then. Before I get all sentimental」

After taking in his surroundings, Edgar looked in the lower corner of his view to see a clock being displayed.

There was in-game time, and the real-world time.

I've still got a while before I have to meet up with Ninomiya-san and the others. Although it should be fine if I just sat here and waited for them, I guess it would be better to make some preparations first.

The Grand Mission, it was a quest that required a party and involved team combat.

Unlike when you are in the Field or in a Dungeon, Factions banded together and tried to defeat a common enemy. The goal was to take down the Boss Mob. Four parties would be participating at once and your reward changed based on your team's performance. Depending on number of enemies you defeated and how much damage you did to the Boss Mob, your party's rank at the end of the Mission will determine what reward you get.

The most essential parts of the Grand Mission was quickly defeating the smaller Mobs, and making your way to the Boss Mob.

In other words, the focal point of this strategy would be how quickly you can recover the damage you receive on the way, and how fast you can proceed forward.

Naturally, one would think that the job of healing should fall to a Cleric, but that actually had the opposite effect and instead leads to a time loss.

Taking into consideration the incantation time of healing magic and the time it takes to refill the「Stamina Gauge」used to cast it in the first place, Clerics are better off focusing their efforts on weakening Mobs with debuffs and strengthening allies with buffs instead. Healing during battle, it's best if you handle that yourself.

Therefore the most essential thing, was to have a sufficient amount of self-healing items.

It's best if we stocked up on a lot of those recovery items.

「To The Home House」

In response to Edgar's voice, a menu opened up, and he chose the Home House option.

In an instant his vision was shrouded in light. Edgar Fast Traveled to his Home

House

* * *

「Welcome Home, Edgar-sama」

When Edgar arrived at the Home House by using Fast Travel, with her white limbs radiantly contrasting against her black Gothic Lolita outfit, the beautiful female elf, Sonya, was waiting for him.

「I'm back, Sonya」

「How unusual for you to log in with a sub-character」

「There's some things I have to deal with you see」

「Oh my, that must be very difficult. If there is anything that I can assist you with then please feel free to inform me」

Seeing Sonya's smiling face as she said that, Edgar also found his cheeks loosen into a small smile.

The fact that Sonya was in the Home House of the Sub-Character Edgar was by no mere accident.

As an NPC who supports the players, only 1 NPC was assigned to each individual player's account.

「Sonya, this is honestly my first time using a sub-character. So, is it possible to take items from the other side's item box and bring them here? Aran's side that is」

「My apologies, that is not possible. In order for Aran-sama's items to enter Edgar-sama's item inventory, there is no other way besides first logging in as Aran-sama, and then sending the items to Edgar-sama through the mail」

「So that's how it works」

「Yes. Due to the system's limitations, this is the only way to do it」

That's really annoying.

The other side's item box has a ton of recovery items so I thought that I could just use those, but looks like I have to log into Aran's side first.

「Edgar-sama, are you perhaps participating in the Grand Mission?」

「Well, that's what I was planning」

「In that case, I suggest that you first finish setting your skills before you worry about items」

「.....Oh yea, that's right」

An essential part of Dragon's Krone, were the「Skills」. Skills were, they were abilities you could acquire by using up the「Skill Points」you gained from every level up. There were「Passive Skills」that boosted your body's abilities, and also「Active Skills」that effected things other than yourself.

The total number of classes you could choose from in Dragon's Krone were 9 classes. Even if two players shared the same class, they could develop their characters in different ways and have completely different specialties.

The thing that made this possible, was Skill Builds.

The player's level cap was set at level 100, and although it was only possible to gain a maximum of 100 Skill Points, the number of skills available to each class easily surpassed 100.

In other words, it was impossible for a player to acquire every single skill of their class, and it was necessary for the player to choose which unique skills they wanted to place their points into.

For example, Edgar's class of「Samurai」, only including the active skills there was「Upper Stance」,「Middle Stance」,「Lower Stance」, and「Iai」. There were 4 skill trees to choose from.[\[1\]](#)

Each skill tree had its own unique specialties and techniques. Being able to customize your skills to fit your own playstyle, this was a fundamental part of one's growth in Dragon's Krone.

「For an experienced player such as Edgar-sama I feel that there is no need for an explanation, but I think that it would be best if Edgar-sama decides on what Skill Build he wishes to use」

「Well, I don't plan on leveling up this character, so I'll just decide it later」

「..... Eh, will that be the case?」

Sonya wrinkled her brow while seeming sad.

As if trying to say「How unfortunate」she raised her shoulders slightly.

「Since this was a sub-character, I thought that I might finally be able to accompany Edgar-sama...」

「.....Uu」

Edgar was overwhelmed with an unusual sense of guilt.

For a Support NPC, it was possible for them to go out into the Field with you as a Partner. And yet, up until now he had never taken Sonya with him. This was because Aran was specialized in solo play.

「.....Once everything is finished, I guess it wouldn't be a bad idea to take Sonya hunting with this sub-chara」

「Will we really?」

「Yeah」

「I'm so glad」

Seeing Sonya with a wholehearted smile on her face, Edgar forgot for a moment that she was not a human. He forgot that she was a program. Of course you could choose your support NPC's gender, but aside from that you could also choose from a variety of customizations, even choosing if they would be human or animals. Players who customize their NPCs to be females, apparently there are a few players who seriously end up falling in love with them. Support NPCs were always obedient, always standing by your side, always saving you and helping out in many ways. The players who fall in love with those NPCs, I understand their feelings painfully well.

「Well then-, I'll be logging in to Aran for a bit」

「Understood. Please have a safe trip, Edgar-sama」

Looking over his shoulder and seeing Sonya gracefully bow, leaving his Home House behind, Edgar operated the menu and logged out. According to the real world clock reflected in the corner of his view, the appointed time until he met with Suzu was steadily approaching.

* * *

The meeting place where Edgar was to join up with Suzu's group was right in the center of Crescendo, right in front of the Hunter's Guild. The Hunter's Guild, it was the place where Dragon Hunters could go and receive various quests. It was also possible to receive the Grand Mission quest there. It was convenient that they could undertake the Grand Mission right away after they had gathered, but since the Hunter's Guild was the largest building in all of Crescendo, this was overall the best meeting place.

「Heeey~ Edogawa~」

Hearing a voice call out to him, Edgar turned around. Pushing his way past the other players gathered to participate in the Grand Mission, before him he found an avatar that was the splitting image of the real world Andou except with a shaven head, his character name was 「Andou」. Likewise, exactly like the real world Yamabuki except with long hair, an avatar with the character name 「Yamabuki」. And, looking behind the two, Edgar saw 2 more female avatars.

「I could totally tell it was you right away. Did ya wait long?」
「.....No, not really」

Seeming somewhat non-apologetic, the long haired Yamabuki shrugged his shoulders, and Edgar softly muttered a reply. Although the meeting time should've been 6pm, it was already 30 minutes past that appointment. However, Edgar encountered a bit of difficulty trying to transfer recovery items for Aran's item box, so he also ended up being about 10 minutes late.

「Oh~! Really thank ya, Edogawa!」

And, one of the 2 female avatars, a small elf with tanned skin pushed aside Andou and appeared in front of Edgar. Her skin was exposed in many places, she wore leather short pants, and a short tanktop that exposed her navel. This super energetic person, she's probably Ninomiya-san's friend Sasaki Megumi, "Megu-san". Setting up her avatar as a small elf with tan skin..... She really knows her stuff. [\[2\]](#)

Guessing from her appearance, her class must be a Thief.

「Ya know, I heard that Andou and Yamabuki totally forgot about our promise. I thought for sure that we couldn't do the Grand Mission and my anger was up to the Max. HOWEVER! You really saved us~」

Putting an emphasis on the「However!」, Megu sent a glare at Andou and Yamabuki who were behind her.
I see.

So the reason why they were late, is because they were receiving Megu-san's wrath.

「Really though, Thank You, Edogawa-kun..... Well, I guess in this world..... Should we call you Edgar-kun?」

With a glowing smile on her face, standing beside Sasaki Megumi was Suzu. Her looks were the same as if she took a copy of her real world self. Wrapped in a pure white robe, her figure looked divine.

Her character name was「Suzu」.

Her Class was Cleric.

Choosing a class that supported her allies with healing, what a befitting class for Ninomiya-san.

「"Edogar", since your name's Edogawa, it became Edgar?」

「That's right」

「Not real creative huh~. That said, our names ain't that much better」

Saying "We're not ones to talk", Andou and Yamabuki both laughed. [\[3\]](#)
The flashy one, Yamabuki, was wearing iron plated armor that covered his vulnerable points; his class was Knight. And wielding a giant axe with a baseball player-esque bald-cut was Andou who's class was a Fighter.

This is again, I feel that these classes very much suited their personalities.

「Hmm~, Edogawa.....I mean, Edgar's class is a Samurai huh~. You choose a pretty tough class to play huh. Ah, maybe, are you trying to imitate Aran?」

「No, that's not the case at all」

The happy-looking Megu was in high spirits.
Instead of "imitating", I'm the real deal though.

「.....Hmm? But, you're still only LV1? Didn't you play before, Edgar? Dragon's Krone that is」

‘Maybe I was wrong?’ Megu looked over at Suzu.

At those words, Suzu and Andou, and Yamabuki's gazes all turned and fixed themselves on Edgar. The situation turned into something like that.

「When we talked to you in the classroom it seemed like you played before, but..... If you've been playing since before, isn't it weird to be LV1?」

「Ah, Edgar-kun, is that perhaps..... a sub-character?」

「Eeehh.....aaaa.....ummm」

Being barraged by questions in this virtual world, as if this was in the real world, Edgar stuttered to find words.

Crap.

I didn't consider the most basic parts. If I told them that I made a sub-chara to match their levels then they would probably accept that, but Andou and Yamabuki might pursue it further and say「We wanna see your main character」. I must avoid that at all costs.

In order to protect my livelihood in this world.

「The truth is I used to play before and eventually retired. But my brother has been insisting that we play again lately, so that's why I'm still LV 1」

「Aah, I get it. So Edgar is starting over huh」

「Yeah」

Edgar was quite impressed with himself as he came up with an excuse on the spot.

Doesn't this solve just about everything?

If they believe that I recently restarted playing, then it wouldn't be strange if I had some previous knowledge. There isn't even a need to look purposely unskilled. Even if it's just to accompany them during the Grand Mission, it's great that I don't have to worry about making any missteps.

「Edgar-kun, If your brother invited you..... Does that mean you two are playing together?」

「Well, we haven't been playing together much though」

Suzu asked that with a very curious expression on her face, but Edgar had expected as much.

“Unchain”, being the latest console that was a top-of-the-line technology, it was essentially like an expensive gaming PC; not something that a high-schooler could buy with just pocket change. Although it was not unusual for a household to have an Unchain console, for a family to have a device for each of its children, that was extremely rare.

I would like if you didn't probe any further than that.

「If that's true, then this is probably the best time for us to be doing the Grand Mission. Nice Timing~」

「Oh, I know, Megu. After we clear the Grand Mission, we should all go and help

Edgar-kun with leveling up」

「Yea, guess so~. He really helped us out this time after all..... I guess it's fine if we gave him a helping hand」

As Suzu clapped her hands together with a **Pon**, Megu lightly shrugged her shoulders as if it couldn't be helped.

But, having them help raise his level, for Edgar who had never experienced something that, he felt a strange emotion overcome him.

I don't really plan on raising this character, so I don't really need your help. But still, why do I not feel bad about them offering to help me.

「.....My thanks」

「You, even in this world you still seem all gloomy huh..... Can't you be more like『Thanks guys~!』 and just reply like that?」

Leave my alone.

‘What a poor guy’, to Andou who dropped his shoulders in sympathy, Edgar retorted in his heart.

「Hey~, for now shouldn't we go and register for the Grand Mission? We don't know how long it will take to complete it after all」

「Yup, we should. *Uhyaaa~* I'm super excited!」

With Yamabuki's words, Megu made a short hop into the air. She seems to be enjoying herself to the fullest.

Looking at them from behind, somewhere in his heart, Edgar felt that it was all a bit anticlimactic.

I was so worried about meeting my real world classmates here in Dragon's Krone, but looks like I might have been anxious about it for nothing.

They are just like me; They simply like this game. To me, they just look like Players who came here to have fun.

「Let's go, Edgar-kun」

「Y-yea」

Suzu called out to Edgar.

And as Edgar was still feeling somewhat let-down, he was pulled along by Suzu's group, and they opened the door to the Hunter's Guild.

TL Extra Note: Our little Ran is slowly growing up :,(

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: Upper, Middle, and Lower Stance are originally “Jōdan”, “Chūdan” and “Gendan”. They are kendo terms that refer to the stance you take when you hold out your sword. Essentially they are “over head”, “mid-level”, and “downward” stances. Iai is as I explained before, “the art of drawing out the sword”.

[2.](#)

TL note: When Ran/Edgar says “she really knows her stuff” he meant it like... a dark Elf really suits his “fancy” (as shown by Sonya also being an Elf).

Also, “Megu” is Sasaki Megumi’s nickname (or at least I think so, I’m not sure how nicknames work with Furigana).

[3.](#)

TL note: To point things out, the two guy’s names are a simple conversion of their Kanji names into Katakana.

Andou: 安藤 → 「アンドウ」

Yamabuki: 山吹 → 「ヤマブキ」

Like he said in the previous chapter, Edgar’s name is in Katakana as 「エドガー」

Megumi/Megu-san uses her nickname of Megu: 「メグ」

Suzu is the only one who keeps her name the exact same, Suzu: すず → 「すず」

Chapter 5: Our First Grand Mission (Part 2)

Another day, Another chapter. School is starting off slow so I still have time to do these, but who knows when I'll have to slow down.

Enjoy.

Side note: As usual, Lightly Edited.

Volume 1: New Game+

Chapter 5: Our First Grand Mission (Part 2)

「Well done making it here! You Newborn Dragon Hunters!」

A man with a crew-cut, clad in silver plate armor, was vigorously shouting at Andou.

「For you lot who haven't even gotten past『Potty Training』 the most ideal quest has come! Let's chase out those Rotten Orcs! How about it! Are you ready to show everyone what you're made of!?!」

「Aah~..... This guy... do we really have to go along with him?」

「yea, probably」

To the plate-mail man who had an annoyingly high amount of tension, Andou and Yamabuki looked to be a bit fed up.

Being a VRMMO game, unlike other games up until now, Dragon's Krone possessed a high level of player immersion.「Role-playing」, assuming a 'character' and acting out the story, was one of the established ways to enjoy yourself in this game. There were also a large number of players who didn't role-play and simply enjoyed the game as it was suppose to be played.

And Andou and the others belonged to the group that only wanted to enjoy the game as it was.

「.....L-Leave it to us~.....」

「GAHAHA, A Great Answer Andou! The thing I request of you is... Help us drive

back the orcs who are attacking from the East at the Mist Witch Lookout. I want you to quickly head on over there and annihilate them!」

It appears that the Grand Mission's story this time goes something like that. In the world of Dragon's Krone, there are a great number of fiendish Mobs who are not from the Dragon race.

Among them were the Mob that even relatively low level players could handle, the Orc race.

Since Orcs had a low level of intelligence they didn't use magic, but they were a Mob who used single attack「Two-Handed Weapons」and had a high attack power. If you get surrounded by a number of them, then orcs became the natural enemy for beginners who would end up panicking.

「A bunch of orcs are coming... that's a bit scary huh~. They have, like, super hideous faces right? Those guys」

「Nn~, they're really scary..... But it will be alright if we fight them as a Party, Megu」

Watching Andou and Yamabuki deal with the procedures from afar, Megu was showing signs of unease as Suzu answered her with a smile.

「Ah, Megu, about the strategy... Yamabuki-kun and Andou-kun will pull in the enemies, and Edgar-kun and Megu will finish them off, something like that sound okay?」

「I guess so~. Will Suzu be on healing duty?」

「Yup, leave it to me」

“That's my job after all,” Suzu continued.

When he heard that conversation, Edgar was thinking about suggesting that the Cleric, Suzu, focus on support magic instead, but he stopped himself just before saying it.

If I was the Party Leader instead, then I should voice my opinion and tell Ninomiya-san and the others how to act, But this time it's different. Also it seems like Ninomiya-san and the others aren't focused on efficiency, so it would be better to stay silent unless we find ourselves in a pinch.

「Edgar-kun, does that plan sound good to you?」

「eh? oh.....sure」

Suddenly being addressed by Suzu, Edgar gave a rushed response.

「Ah, maybe~, is Edgar all scared of the orcs?」

Megu whispered while grinning ear to ear.

The Grand Mission this time will be charging into a group of orcs, in addition, waiting for them behind the masses of orcs will be the Boss Mob 「Orc King」. For lower level players, it wouldn't be strange to be somewhat scared by them. I am completely fine with them though.

「.....Well, orcs have scary faces that probably came straight out of some nightmare after all. Megu-san's feelings, I can't say that I don't see where you're coming from」

「If things get bad come save me kay~, Edgar」

「eh?」

So far, Edgar had never experienced someone relying on him for something, so he just stared back in bewilderment.

「It's not『eh?』!! You and I are the main attackers right! If you just abandon me and run away by yourself then things will get scary afterwards you know!」

「.....ツ!」

Glancing at him with a scowl, Megu was obviously showing her blood lust. If we end up in a pinch, first things first, I **have** to save Megu-san at all costs. In order to preserve my tranquil high-school life, right now and in the future.

「No, I don't plan on doing that but..... If Megu-san gets angry, then I feel sorry for the orcs instead. I definitely won't abandon you」

「Y-You just casually said something so rude! Edgar, were you always that type of character!?!」

「a ha ha, Edgar-kun is so interesting」

As Suzu's light laughter mixed in together with Megu's retort, the surroundings seemed to spread out.

Covering her mouth with both hands, seeing the corners of Suzu's eyes narrow like that, Edgar suddenly found himself swallowing his breath.

What a charming smile. Just getting to see that smile makes me think that it was a good idea to accept their invitation.

「Heeey~, We finished with our registration」
「OOH! LET'S GO!」

As Andou's voice reached them, Megu let out a cry filled with fighting spirit. At last, together with his classmates, it was finally time to challenge the Grand Mission—

At the edge of their view floated the words「Confirming Participation In The Grand Mission」.

And then, after a short while, Edgar and the others were forcibly sent into the Field where the Grand Mission would take place, The「Mist Witch Lookout」.

* * *

The Mist Witch Lookout, set a little to the East of Crescendo, it was the abandoned ruins of a fort.

According to its background story, in the days of old the Crescendo region was constantly under attack by Orcs. During those times, humans apparently built the Mist Witch Fortress using their own bare hands.

After a long hard fought battle, the war against the Orcs ended in the Human's victory and they ruled over Crescendo. The Mist Witch Fortress has since then been used as an observatory to watch out for the Orc's movements, a「Lookout」.

「LISTEN UP! THE MIST WITCH LOOKOUT HAS ALREADY FALLEN TO THE ORCS! OUR GOAL IS TO STORM THE LOOKOUT FROM ALL DIRECTIONS! WE'RE TAKING BACK THIS LOOKOUT!」

Gathered along the rampart walls of the Mist Witch Lookout, there were a number of NPCs clad in silver armor, and a man yelling at the top of his lungs who seemed like he was the leader of this Lookout Recapture Squad. Since he was wearing the same kind of armor as that silver guy at the Hunter's Guild, I suppose he must be under the direct command of the ruler of this Mist Witch domain.

「W-What intense heat」
「T-This is..... amazing」

Raising their voices in astonishment, were Megu and Yamabuki. Among the NPCs stood Edgar's party.

Off in the distance, the sound of metal clashing could be heard.
The earthly tremors of explosive magic.
The roaring cries of Orcs.
From beyond the rampart walls, screams could be heard.
Here in this pseudo-constructed world, an unbelievable amount of tension and exhilaration dominated the atmosphere.

「UOOOH, I'M GETTING PUMPED!」
「Yamabuki-kun, Andou-kun, the strategy, make sure not to forget it」
「I won't forget. Me and Yamabuki will gather the targets, then Megu and Edgar will finish them off, right」

Suzu tried to get their attention, but being swallowed by the excitement Yamabuki and Andou answered somewhat absentmindedly.

Seeing them act like that, Edgar was feeling a sense of nostalgia.
When I first started out I was just like them, this kind of atmosphere always got me excited. That is the true pleasure of VR games; it's something that you couldn't taste if you played some other sort of game.
But, if you become too excited then it might prove fatal.
If you are overexcited then you won't be able to make calm decisions, in a dangerous situation those feelings of excitement can turn into「Poison」.

「.....Suzu-san, do you have a moment?」
「Eh?」

Even though it was her character name, being apprehensive about calling her just「Suzu」, Edgar called out to one of his party members, to Suzu who didn't seem like she was being swept away by the mood. He wanted to confirm the situation.

「Andou and Yamabuki, is this their first Grand Mission?」
「Yea, and I think it's the same for Megu. I have some experience though」
「I see. In that case, there's the possibility that those two will dive in headfirst while forgetting the strategy. Healing magic raises Aggro, so if the orcs start targeting you then just call out to me」

“Aggro^[1]” was something that applied to Mobs, it was「Hatred towards the Player」.

Once a player gathers a certain level of Aggro, Mobs will then target that player and start attacking them. But, there was a certain technique to control this Aggro known as 「Aggro Management」. This Aggro Management was an extremely important component of Party Combat.

Since the main thing that generates the most Aggro was 「The Severity of Damage Dealt」, if you had a large number of Attackers, and if players other than yourself continue to attack in a similar fashion, then the Mobs would target everyone separately and you might not be able to heal them in time. In order to counteract that, classes like Knights and Fighters were assigned 「Tank Duty」. Since they were classes that possessed 「Aggro Generating Skills」, they can make themselves the target of enemy attacks. As such, it was important to have at least one person in your party who could be on tank duty, or at least that was the theory behind it.

However, “making the enemies target you”, this was a rather difficult technique for beginner players.

This was because 「Healing a low HP Player’s Health」 also generated a large amount of Aggro.

In other words, if the Tank is negligent in his duty of Aggro-Control, then every time he gets healed there is the possibility that the Mob might rush into the rear guard and attack the Cleric. For beginner parties, this was a common incident that occurred and often lead to a complete party wipe-out.

「.....Understood. Or rather, Edgar-kun is really calm huh」

「Eh? That so?」

「Yea. It’s like, “as expected of a restarting player”」

Those words made Edgar’s heart jump.

Crap. Even though I told myself that I wouldn’t offer any advice, I ended up saying something by accident. If I’m not careful and stand out too much then they might start questioning things later.

「Well then, Strengthening Magic, I’m going to cast some, okay」

「o-okay」

Suzu took up her staff, and she activated【Scutum I^[2]】 which enhanced the defensive power of all party members.

A number of light orbs swirled around each party member, and their bodies started to lightly shine.

「Thanks」

「Let's do our best, Edgar-kun」

From underneath her hood, a smile could be seen on Suzu's face.

And so, the Leader-esque NPC of the Recapture Squad brandishing his sword in the air. As if inspired by him, the surrounding NPCs all held up their swords and shields.

A dreadful, feverish enthusiasm.

The excitement in the air continued to escalate, the signal for battle was approaching.

The NPC's immense war cry paralyzed Edgar and other's sense of hearing.

And then, a single ray of light.

The door to the Mist Witch Lookout soundlessly opened.

That was the signal for the Start of the Grand Mission.

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: The original word used here is "Hate". Since it's pretty much the same, I converted it into the English equivalent of "Aggro"

[2.](#)

TL note: As I mentioned in chapter 1, a Scutum is a type of shield used by roman centurions.

Chapter 6: Trouble A'brewing at the Mist Witch Lookout (Part 1)

More Chapters, running out of stuff to say. Goal is to finish chapter 9 before slowing down.

Enjoy.

Side note: As usual, Lightly Edited. Apparently all your comments that only say "Thanks for the chapter" are being marked as spam by the filter. Lol, you guys should be more creative

Volume 1: New Game+

Chapter 6: Trouble A'brewing at the Mist Witch Lookout (Part 1)

As the rampart doors connecting to the inside of the lookout opened wide, almost as if some foreign substance suddenly was yanked out of their ears, the intense sound of battle assaulted Edgar and the other's eardrums. This Field where the Grand Mission was taking place, This Mist Witch Lookout, it was a simple Field designed almost like an Arena. In the center of it all was a watchtower surrounded by a number of buildings. Aside from that there was no other places to take cover. Also there, was a disgusting number of Orc figures, and clashing swords with them were the NPCs of the Recapture Squad.

「YAMABUKIII! WE'RE AIMING FOR THE HEART OF THAT WATCHTOWER」
「OOOOO!」

As the NPCs behind them formed a surging wave and charged forth, plunging in headfirst along with the NPCs, of all things, it was the cornerstones of their party's formation, The tanks Andou and Yamabuki.

「H-HOLD ON! Andou! Yamabuki!」
「You Three should hurry, Megu-san!」

The two dashed ahead without paying any attention to the rest of their party members. Megu called out trying to stop them, but, just like the figures of those two, her words simply melded together with the loud clamor and disappeared.

「You've got to be kidding me.....」

Watching as Andou and Yamabuki disappeared into the wave of NPCs, Edgar just stood there looking astonished.

Now they've done it.

To think, for both of our tanks to rush on ahead and leave us behind at the very start of the quest... This was beyond my expectations.

「What's up with those guys! They're total idiots, right!? I can't believe this!! It's like they didn't under the strategy AT ALL!」

「It doesn't look good huh, this situation.....」

Even the normally calm Suzu was showing signs of panic.

Although this was an「Event」related to the Grand Mission Festival, the penalty associated with dying was still in full effect. In other words, if you died then everything in your item inventory will be turned into drops.

Andou and Yamabuki will suffer consequences of diving in recklessly, but Suzu-san and Megu-san who were left behind, I can't let them die and meet the same fate.

「Megu-san, Suzu-san, let's change up our strategy」

Among the NPCs that were all charging forth like an avalanche, Edgar held back the other two people who were left behind.

「Haa!? Why are you being so laid-back Edgar! We have to hurry up, and chase after those blockheads!」

「As things are now, splitting up and chasing after Andou and Yamabuki isn't a good idea. Even if it's only us three, we have to act in a composed manner」

The worst thing that could happen right now, is getting split apart by the wave of NPCs as they tried to chase after Andou and Yamabuki.

A troubling number of Orcs were causing mayhem as they swung their weapons around. Even if they tried to wait for the quest to end, they would probably be attacked by the orcs and wiped-out first.

「Megu, just calm down for now. Like Edgar-kun said, we have to keep our cool, okay?」

Grabbing onto her hand, Suzu tried to suppress Megu's emotions. Unlike traditional games that were like watching「unrealistic」fights on a TV screen, VRMMO combat let you take in the fear and excitement with all 5 of your senses, a「Realistic」experience. The「Excitement」that consumed Andou and Yamabuki, and the「Anger」that consumed Megu, These were not things being displayed on some status screen. Without even having to cast “abnormal status recovery” magic, Suzu's touch was able to return Megu to a state of「composure」.

「Well then, Edgar-kun, you said we were changing our strategy?」

While pacifying Megu who was letting the words “I'll make them pay after this” leak out of her mouth, Suzu asked a question.

「For now let's give up on trying to attack the Boss『Orc King』who's waiting at the center of the watchtower. Our highest priority, should be meeting up with Andou and Yamabuki first」

「In that case we have to hurry up and—」

「That would be dangerous, Megu-san. If you give in to your anger and dive in after them, then you could get surrounded by orcs and that will be the end of the line for you. As we chase after them, it is important that we confirm the safety of our surroundings. However, Megu-san is not wrong, it's true that we can't just sit here and waste time twiddling our thumbs」

Saying that, Edgar took out an item from his item inventory.

「.....What's this?」

「Just a Healing Herb」

This was something he had prepared in advance, Edgar had filled 2/3rds of his item inventory with recovery herbs.

「Healing Herb? Did you prepare this beforehand? Even though we have Suzu?」

「As long as we have lost our tanks, it is dangerous to be casting healing magic. In you happen to take any damage, then use these to heal yourself, Megu-san. As for Suzu-san, until we meet up with Andou and Yamabuki, I would like for you to

focus on weakening and debuff magic」

「.....Yeah, understood」

「Also, until we meet up with them it would be best if we avoided combat. We will do our best to focus on running away. We'll fall behind the other parties in rankings, but that can't be helped」

It would be best if we gave up on the Grand Mission reward huh.
Even so, to think that our goal changed from completing the Grand Mission to 'making it to the end without dying'...
Aaah, Parties are really annoying.

「Speaking of which, ya know Edgar..... He's surprisingly a really reliable guy huh」

「Yeah, it might be a bit rude to say, but I'm honestly surprised」

Looking amazed, Megu whispered to Suzu.
Although it was supposed to be a compliment, he somewhat felt that they were making fun of him at the same time. Edgar was at a loss at what expression he should make, so he scratched his nose embarrassingly.

「.....W-Well then, let's go」

Handing half of the Healing Herbs to Megu, Edgar readied his beginner samurai weapon「Uchigatana^[1]」and pulled it out.

「Roger!」

「Okay!」

At the same time, Megu wielded two small daggers in both hands, and Suzu took up her staff.

Although they are now completely behind, from here on it will be “Quest Start”—

The start to Edgar's Grand Mission troubles was only beginning.

* * *

Edgar was apprehensive about trying to survive until the end of the quest, but during the Grand Mission that is an event tailored to low-level players, he was their greatest ally.

The orcs gathered around the 4 entrances at the start, he dealt with them all by

himself without any assistance from his party.

「Ushhh!」

Megu swiftly maneuvered the daggers in her hands, and silenced the orcs with a sure-fire strike.

This would make it her 4th one. Suzu-san was not using her healing magic, and was focusing on weakening the enemies.

Looks like it will be smooth sailing up for now.

Based on my assumption, the orcs that we will have to work together as a party to defeat, they probably won't show up until we get closer to the watchtower where Boss Mob is.

「Suzu-san, it is about time you should stopped using debuff magic. If the time comes, we might need you to preserve some stamina」

That “If” that Edgar was speaking of, was the「If」if they managed to meet up with Andou and Yamabuki who went on ahead.

Those two are carrying absolutely no Healing Herbs... I doubt that to be the case, but we have to move under the assumption that we could find them in a situation where they have almost no health left. If something like that were to happen, then before we even bother with Aggro Management, we have to prioritize healing them first.

If the tanks end up dying, then the possibility that Suzu-san and Megu-san will survive until to the end of the Grand Mission will be pretty much close to Zero.

「The next one is coming! Edgaarr!」

Without waiting for Suzu's reply, in front of him was an Orc readying his humongous axe.

His target is me huh.

Edgar immediately pointed his blade at the Orc.

Grasping onto the hilt, He took a step forward.

The distance from the Orc was a few meters. The number of steps between them was about 4 steps. That distance was the same length of the orc's axe.

Edgar kicked off the ground with his left foot

Maybe because his Status was low, his movements were a bit dull but it wasn't a problem

As if he was gliding across the floor, Edgar closed the distance in an instant and appeared before the Orc's chest.

The First Skill in the【Lower Stance】Tree, the Samurai Skill:【Ground Rush】.

「Edgar-kun!」

「I got this」

From the rear, Suzu's voice could be heard.

And, at the same time there was the sound of the Orc swinging down his axe. Swiftly dodging to the right, shifting to the side with perfect timing, Edgar held his katana with an overhead stance, and let loose the blade.

The moment the giant axe and the katana clashed, the screeching sound of metal rang out.

With a thud, the ground shook.

Stuck in the ground was the giant axe. He took no damage. And again he quickly let loose his katana.

Now defenseless, he slipped past the Orc's side and aiming for it's back, he sliced through.

With a flashy effect, blood spewed forth.

「Megu-san! The finishing blow!」

「.....O-Okay!」

Megu had stopped for a moment as she was dumbfounded by Edgar's movements, but she again stirred her hands.

Thiefs had low HP and lacked brute force, but their attacks were accurate and they were hard to catch. With skills that enhanced movement, Thiefs were a class with high agility stats.

Compared to the other classes, a Thief's accuracy was much higher, so their duty was often to finish off Mobs.

「Yaaa!!」

Megu, similar to Edgar's【Ground Rush】, she activated her own high-speed movement skill【Wind Walker】. She bridged the distance between her and the Orc within a second.

Crossing beside Edgar, she landed firmly on the hilt of the giant axe that was wedged in the floor.

The Orc didn't have a chance to react.

She leapt straight up into the air—

Twirling her body around, she flew towards the Orc's backside.

At the same time a glittering effect shot out of her two daggers.

A Skill that unleashed 2 swift attacks:【2-Fold Blink Strike】.

Since she was equip with a dagger in each hand, the Orc was struck by a total of 4 slashes.

「Uwaaa.....!」

The Orc's giant body began to sway, and it fell down to its knees.

Megu, who had landed behind the Orc, was in danger of being squashed, so in a panic she rushed over to Edgar's side.

「Fii~! Good Job Edgar!..... Wait, rather than a “Good Job” aren't you like super amazing? How come you can move around like that?」

「No, well, it just happened to work out by accident」

Trying not to raise any suspicions, Edgar acted humble about it.

Even if they believe that I started over again, it's still not good to stand out too much.

In order to not seem too conspicuous, it might be best if I purposely take some damage..... But taking damage from the orcs might end up a bit painful.

Wonder what I should do.

「.....Megu! Edgar-kun!」

Then, the alarmed voice of Suzu reached both of their ears.

「Over there! Andou and Yamabuki!」

「Eh!? Seriously!? Where!?」

With some anger mixed in with her tone, Megu began searching around for the two.

No, rather than “anger”, it's closer to “murderous intent”.

This is... I can't afford to let Megu-san have her way with them huh. After we've gone through so much to desperately try and save them for the orcs, I can't have her killing off Andou and Yamabuki like that.

「Over there! Where the Orcs are!」

「.....Found them」

Faster than Megu could, Edgar spotted them first.
As for the location, they were about half way to one of the entrances to the watchtower.

Surrounded by a party of orcs, Edgar could see the figures of two players with long hair and a shaved head.

「Suzu-san, Prepare to use healing magic」
「Okay!」

Immediately giving instructions to Suzu, Edgar began running towards them.

「Megu-san, Prioritize attacking the same target as me」
「Eeeh, by that, you mean, which one!? Wai-Hold up, Wait a second!」
「Megu, Hurry!」

Having not yet spotted Andou and Yamabuki, Megu chased after Edgar and Suzu who left before her. She sprinted after them.

Probably, when we cast healing magic on Andou and Yamabuki, the orcs will most likely change their target to Suzu-san. But that doesn't matter.

I will dispose of all the orcs who try to chase after Suzu-san.

Keeping an eye out for the orcs in their surroundings, Edgar, Suzu, and Megu avoided their attacks as they pressed on forward, trying to reach Andou and Yamabuki who were being cornered by a party of orcs.

—However, awaiting them there was a situation that they would have never expected.

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: Uchigatana are shorter than the originally traditional Tachi sword. It is also worn blade side up with allowed for the creation of techniques such as battoujutsu and iaijutsu. See reference picture [here](#) (I will probably be referencing this picture again)

Chapter 7: Trouble A'brewing at the Mist Witch Lookout (Part 2)

Chapter was long and I had to redo a bunch of lines, but it's here at least. Does this still count as part of the daily releases?

Anyways, Enjoy.

Side Note: Food time, Edit later. This chapter has a lot of specific terminology, but I'm too lazy to link/explain them all so just go along with my semi-made up translation of them.

Volume 1: New Game+

Chapter 7: Trouble A'brewing at the Mist Witch Lookout (Part 2)

Gathered together in the Grand Mission Field, 4 Parties tried to defeat as many Mobs as they could, tried to deal as much damage as they could to the Boss Mob, and tried to clear the quest as fast as possible. They competed with each other in these aspects of 「Points」 and 「Time」.

Participating Players always had to keep track of their party member's HP while looking out for Mobs, and they also had to worry about the Boss Mob at the end. However, there was one more thing a player must not forget about. That was, "interference" from other participating players.

In the world of Dragon's Krone, as long as you were in the Field or a Dungeon, if you were in any place where Mobs could spawn, then it was always a possibility that you might enter into combat with other players. As long as you were in these areas, 「PvP (Player versus player)」 was always a viable concern. As you struggled to fight against a Mob, you had to consider the possibility that another player might come from behind and strike you down. That constant tension was one of the many thrills of Dragon's Krone. This was one of the reasons why a very small number of people became Solo Players, just like Aran was.

And of course, the Field for the Grand Mission was no exception. However, players would normally never start PvPing during a Grand Mission. The reason was simple, if you started PvPing then you would become preoccupied with your opponent and the other parties would get ahead and hunt down all the Mobs instead. As a result, PvPing was mutually detrimental to both the attacking and defending party.

Although it was called interference, neighboring parties still had enough spare time to fire off a few spells like the Lighting Magic Spell【Voltage】. This didn't result in any major time loss, but this level of interference was merely a small annoyance. During the Grand Mission was it was common knowledge that PvP had nothing but demerits to it— And yet, before Edgar was a sight completely beyond his expectations.

「E-EDGAR!」
「S-SAVE USS!」

Andou and Yamabuki's cries for help reached Edgar's ears. Just like he had expected, both of them had lost almost all of their health. They were on the verge of death. However, the opponents they were facing was something that Edgar was not prepared for. The thing they were fighting against was not the fearsome orcs— It was 2 other players.

「.....Would you be their comrades?」
「Haa, you've come really late huh」

Holding down Yamabuki was a dark-skinned player with a black martial arts outfit, and pointing his huge sword at Andou was a second one-eyed Player with a smirk on his face.

The man wearing the martial arts outfit was part of the attacker class 「Monk」, and the man who was blind in one eye was the same class as Andou, a Fighter— Without a healer on their team, they were classes highly specialized in offense. I didn't see the other 3 people in their party anywhere, but they probably got split apart like we did.

Even so, why is it that Andou and Yamabuki aren't fighting against orcs, and instead were fighting against players?

I had accepted the idea that we might find them fighting against orcs, but this situation is—

「Egdar! You're *way* too fast! Didn't I say you can't abandon me.... Wait, what the hell is this!?!」

「.....ツ! Andou-kun!? Yamabuki-kun!?!」

「Oops, stop right there, just sit tight and don't move a muscle」

With a grin surfacing on the one-eyed Fighter face as he gave them a warning while pointing his sword at Andou, as if the two of them had taken hostages.

「W-What on earth are you guys doing!」

「Can't you tell just by looking? I'm pretty much pointing my sword right at your comrades, you know?」

Sneering at them, the Fighter spat back at Megu.

Hearing those words, Edgar slowly started to piece together the situation.

Now that I've had a good look around, It seems like the surrounding orcs have all been defeated.

In other words, these guy's objective is not the orcs, but they're aiming for Andou and Yamabuki. And, they're also going after us, their party members trying to save them.

So this means—

「You guys.....Are you Player Killers?」

The sound of Suzu's voice filled the area.

PK (Player Killer), this term summed up players who were intent on attacking others.

In PvP, both parties consent to the same terms before engaging in combat.

However, unlike PvP, PKers don't ask for consent..... many of them simply fight because they are driven by evil intent.

「Who knows~? I wonder~」

「.....Even though there shouldn't be any merit to PvP and PK during the Grand Mission, the reason why you are doing this... I can only think of one reason though」

「Heeh~, you're not just a pretty face huh, you seem to know your stuff. I have *absolutely* no idea what you could be referring to though」

The dark-skinned monk wore a disgusting smile on his face. But, although a grimace appeared on her face for a moment, Suzu continued on without any hesitation.

「『Collusion』 is prohibited by the rules you know」
「Hahaha!」

At Suzu's words the two players raised their voices and laughed. Collusion, a type of unfair foul-play that could be called abusive conduct. Simply put, it was like a form of match-fixing.

In Dragon's Krone, Collusion during the Grand Mission has been a long time problem. The 4 Parties that are chosen to participate in the Grand Mission are selected at random by using a special lottery system. The reason they used this system, was to deal with Collusion in Dragon's Krone. The details are as such. Before the start of the Mission two parties becomes friends with each other, and if they happen to enter the same specialized Field, then one of the parties would start PKing every other party besides they allied party. And then, as one of the parties go around PKing, the other party will head to the Boss Mob and take it down. Since acts of malicious collusion ruined the purpose of participating in the Grand Mission, it was prohibited by the rules of conduct. If the admins were to find out that you were colluding, then you would receive severe punishments and might even have your account permanently frozen.

「Saying that we're Colluding..... Are you trying to pick a fight with us? You got any proof of that?」
「The fact that you are PKing during the Grand Mission where there is no benefit in doing so is proof enough. Please step away from those two. And I will be reporting your actions to the administrators」

Suzu stood firm and didn't back down. But the mood of the two players turned sour.

「.....Oi, even though your just a beginner with no combat experience, are you trying to act all cocky?」

「.....ツ」

The Monk sent an intimidating glare towards them; Suzu and Megu subconsciously froze up.

In terms of level the Monk and the Fighter were around Suzu and Megu's level, but they clearly carried the airs of being skilled players.

Most likely, they made these characters so that they could be thrown away even if their accounts got exposed for collusion, Edgar came to such a conclusion. For these two, they probably only see players participating in the Grand Mission as 「Nothing but weaklings」.

The way they look down on us, it could be plainly felt in their attitude.

「Damn, this really fucking sucks. You guys are just so rude, accusing us of something like that... Seems like we need to give you guys some strict『Training』」

「Yea, Agreed」

The two players slowly got on their feet, and bore their fangs. Assaulted by their intimidation, Suzu and Megu reflexively took a step back. Perhaps they have confidence in their「Knowledge」and「Technique」. With those PvP weapons that weren't reflected in one's Status, they that arrogant smiles on their face as if their victory was guaranteed.

However, they are not the only ones confident in their PvP abilities.

「In that case, shall we do it?」

「..... Ah?」

Casually walking up to confront the two— was Edgar.

「E-Edgar-kun!?!」

「Hey, Wait, Edgar! This is bad you know!」

Suzu and Megu's expressions grew pale.

Unlike fighting against Mobs, PvP was not that simple.

As long as you repeatedly fought against Mobs who only act according to their programming, eventually you would be able to completely understand their movements. But this was not the same when fighting against other players who could read your movements and then adapt their strategy to counteract you. And even more so for experienced players, they could make split second

decisions and change their actions accordingly. In a very short time they could grasp their opponent's movements and then「Predict^[1]」their thought process. These Two could easily tell that they were more experienced than us, and Suzu and the others could probably also feel that sensation on their skin.

「.....Pfft, You? Fight against us? What, with a level like yours?」
「You best give up. I get that you're trying to act cool in front of a bunch of girls, But shouldn't you read the mood a little better? Newbie 」

“What a complete joke,” the two people burst out laughing.
Although his level went up after fighting against the orcs, Edgar was still only level 3. He wasn't even half the level of either the Monk or the Fighter. However, Edgar still had a lax expression.

「What? Was all that talk for nothing? You scared of me or something?」
「.....Wha!?!」

Unthinkable for the real world him, Edgar shot threatening words at the two. Perhaps they were surprised by those words, Suzu and Megu stood completely baffled. And not just them, but the delinquent Monk and Fighter were also dumbfounded.

「..... Now ain't this getting interesting. Don't go crying to mommy, damn newbie」

The man who was a Monk made such a terrifyingly angry face that you won't think it belonged to a human.

「Edgar, let me also.....」
「I'll be fine. Megu-san, and Suzu-san, you should preserve your HP and Stamina for when we head over to fight the Boss Mob」

Edgar replied to Megu and Suzu who were looking uneasy.
And so, taking up his starting samurai weapon, the uchigatana, Edgar readied his stance.

* * *

From the looks of it, their equipment is pretty high quality compared to their level. And addition, their levels are barely within the upper restriction for participating in the Grand Mission.

They were higher in terms of equipment, Status, and combat forces.

Moreover, the situation is 1 vs 2.

If you think about it normally, I'm the one with a disadvantage.

「Hey, you bastard」

With a broad grin on his face the one-eyed Fighter called out to him.

「Shouldn't you consult the wiki and fix your skills before coming here? What the hell do you plan on doing with that totally fucked up Skill Build?」

「Kuku-, Now don't be like that. Can't you see he's just some newbie he doesn't even know who he should be afraid of? They say ignorance is a strength too ya know」

「Oh, I see」

The sound of their vulgar laughter rang out.

Just as those two said, the skills Edgar obtained upon reaching level 3, they were far off from the theoretically ideal skill build.

One of the Samurai's active skills; the First Skill in the【Lower Stance】Tree, 【Ground Rush】.

The Counter Skill in the 【Middle Stance】Tree, 【Tsubame-Gaeshi^[2]】.

And the First Skill in the【Upper Stance】Tree, the Attack Skill【Diagonal-Slice】— Without any uniformity in the Skill Trees, whichever way you look at it, Edgar's skills made it seem like he just threw Skill Points around randomly.

「Edgar-kun」

Suddenly Edgar heard Suzu's voice close to his ear.

「.....What is it?」

「Those people, they're probably sub-characters. I think they have a high level of game knowledge. They are really..... dangerous」

Suzu softly whispered those words into his ear, and Edgar turned and looked at her as if saying that he understood that.

Of course, Edgar had also suspected something like that.

「I'll be fine. There's no way in hell I'll lose to some colluding scumbags」

「.....ツ!」

With a glare in his eyes, Edgar scowled at the Monk.

Aside from pointing their swords at Suzu and Megu, Edgar was genuinely furious with the two of them because they were Colluding.

Edgar was, he was one of the people who wholeheartedly despised players who used unfair methods such as Collusion.

Here in my beloved Dragon's Krone, things like Collusion might harm the game's longevity, and this is an absolutely unforgivable offense to me. I don't know what will happen to those other Colluding players, but at the very least I will be sure to thoroughly punish these two.

「Hey, what's wrong, newbie. Bring it on already」

「..... You don't have to tell **me** that」

Glancing to his side at the worried Suzu, with a bang, Edgar kicked off the ground.

The distance was about 3 steps. Without even having to use 【Ground Rush】, he instantly zeroed in on the Monk.

Seeing Edgar immediately bridge the distance between them, the Monk swiftly readied his guard.

That stance is from the Monk Class's Skill Tree 【Earth Form】 huh.

Rather than relying on multiple punches, this skill tree utilized broad footwork to deal massive damage in one hit. I should be on the lookout for skills that ignore defense—

「ORAAA!!」

Aiming for a counter, the Monk made his move.

A brilliant effect shot out, resembling the motion of a frontal kick, the trajectory changed, and with the side of his foot he let loose a「Leg Blade」.

This was the skill that Edgar had been cautious of, The【Crush Kick】.

As if he was swinging a blade, the kick sliced through the air and assaulted Edgar with an explosive sound.

However, the【Crush Kick】 meant as a counter simply cut through thin air.

In that instant Edgar had warped his body; He shifted his body's axis to the side.

「.....ツ!？」

Perhaps he didn't expect Edgar to dodge just in the nick of time, the Monk simply looked on with wide open eyes, and in his mind Edgar was chuckling to

himself.

Mob combat and PvP combat, he couldn't even count the number of times he has experienced these before. For someone like Edgar, that single attack was enough for him to accurately assess his opponent.

If this guy was a high level player, then there's no way he would start off by using【Crush Kick】in PvP combat.

The start-up time is too slow, the motion is easily read, and you would most likely eat a Counter after using it.

If he was a highly experienced Monk, then he would use a multitude of swift and small attacks while mixing in a couple of skills. Simply firing off a skill like that, he isn't thinking and is just playing it by the book.

This guy, I thought he might be somewhat skilled since he was so full of himself, but I guess he's only on an intermediate level huh.

「Haha, nice job dodging that!」

“But, you avoiding it was just a fluke,” he made sure to add that last part on the end. Next, the Monk began attacking with a flurry of light attacks.

Low Kick, In-Low Kick, Right Jab, Middle Thrust—

Unlike the【Crush Kick】he used earlier, one after another, he kept aiming those short attacks at Edgar.

「HAHAHA! *ORA ORA ORAaaa!!* What's the matter Newbiee!」

「EDGAR-KUUN!」

The Monk yelled out triumphantly, and from behind Suzu's scream could be heard.

However, Edgar didn't seem the least bit concerned.

Swift attacks like these, only a few of them could be dodged. However, as a consequence of using multiple skills to connect each attack, it was impossible to deal much damage with them.

Aaah, this is seriously a pain in the ass.

His choice of attacks is in the completely wrong order.

Even if you use tiny attacks after using a big one, they won't help you much you know.

「Even if you knelt down and begged, it's too late for you now」

「Like hell I would」

Maybe he was feeling good because Edgar was only defending, but the Monk once again activated his bold skill,【Crush Kick】.

Covered by a shining effect, he started the kicking motion.

However, Edgar was waiting for that moment.

「ORA, DIEE.....ツ!?!」

All of a sudden, Edgar's body was shrouded in pale light.

With a flash, a high pitch noise shook the air, a ring of light danced around him.

A cloud of dust rose up into the air.

Edgar's figure had disappeared.

「Naa.....!?!」

The Monk was at a loss for words.

The scene before him, was as if「The Moon itself had appeared」[\[3\]](#)

Extra TL note: And you probably thought the cliffhangers were over. *laughs evilly*

~~Also, I'm not sure how to phrase "the moon was walking" since it is a pretty literal translation. Perhaps a better alternative would be "the moon walking [across the sky]". See footnote #3.~~

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: The word "Predict" is actually a Japanese/English fighting game term known as "Yomi". Yomi refers to "know the mind of your opponent" and allowed you to predict or "read" their next move.

[2.](#)

TL note: Tsubame-Gaeshi is a pretty well-known counter technique. Translated as "Swallow Reversal", it is a commonly used sword (and judo) technique that often appears in popular media, Like Fate/Stay Night or Final Fantasy or even Prince of Tennis.

[3.](#)

TL note: This line literally says “The Moon was Walking” but since I’m taking liberties anyways so I converted it into something that makes more English sense. Think of “the moon walking” like it was “going across the sky (or ground in this case)”. See the end note in the next chapter for more context.

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Chapter 8: Moon Step

I overslept. Here's a short chapter though.

Enjoy.

Side Note: chapter 9 is the end of Vol 1.

Volume 1: New Game+

Chapter 8: Moon Step

Action Games and Fighting Games, once players figure out techniques that the developers didn't intend to be a part of the game mechanics, many of those techniques become the accepted standard.

This happened particularly often for the Fighting Game genre. For example, in a certain classic 2D fighting game, there was a simple bug that allowed you to cancel a normal move into your special move. In spite of it being a bug, this allowed for a deeper level of strategy on the competitive level, and it became widespread to the point where it was considered a fundamental technique. That technique which came from a bug would eventually become officially recognized and implemented in the next game in the series.

And of course, techniques like these also existed in the highly action-packed game of Dragon's Krone.

That technique was Aran's「Moon Step」.

Moon Step was not a skill implemented into Dragon's Krone's game mechanics. Moon Step was a god-like technique that only Aran could use; his fans had even christened the technique with names like「AraSte (Aran Step)」and「Aran Style」.

「Wh.....What.....」

The Monk had absolutely no idea what had happened to his own body. He had tossed out his【Crush Kick】at Edgar who was in front of him, but Edgar's body was obscured by pale light, and suddenly the Monk received a fierce attack from behind—

The Monk had no idea what had happened, and simply knew that he was struck as a result.

「.....Whaa, Wh-Wha-Wha.....」

However, the view was different for the players watching on the side lines. After suddenly witnessing what just happened, every player, including the one-eyed Fighter, they had all forgotten how to form words, and simply stood there awestruck.

Blowing up a cloud of dust, with his body clad in pale light, Edgar had instantaneously moved behind the Monk within a blink of an eye— That was, without a doubt, Aran's「Moon Step」.

「E-Edgar-kun.....Just now.....what did you.....」

「WH, WHAAAAT, THE MOOON STEEEPPPP!? HOW COME EDGAR CAN USE IT!? THIS ISN'T REAL, RIGHT!？」

Suzu and Megu voiced their amazement at the same time.

Aran's Moon Step, it was such a mystery that players created a exclusive page on the Dragon's Krone Wiki to try and recreate it, it was a technique that everyone wanted to learn.

Since Aran himself has never made the technique public, it was never properly explained how he was able to use the Moon Step.

However, although it was only on the level of speculation, volunteers tirelessly analyzed Aran's livestream footage in an attempt to explain the true nature of the Moon Step.

According to the volunteers, Moon Step was apparently the byproduct of several skills used in succession.

From the high-speed movement skill【Ground Rush】, you would circle around the opponent and appear behind them by using the Counter skill【Tsubame-Gaeshi】, and then you would use the Skill 【All or Nothing】which converts defense into offensive power to finish them off.

The reason why his body glows a pale blue light, is because of a lingering visual effect from using【Tsubame-Gaeshi】. This was pretty much the general consensus as to how the Moon Step was produced.

However, there was a problem with that explanation.

No matter how you think about it, it was impossible to string together【Ground

Rush】【Tsubame-Gaeshi】and【All or Nothing】in rapid succession.

The primary theory used in Dragon's Krone is that you should focus on leveling up only one Skill Tree. This allowed you to learn the most powerful skills in that Tree, but there was another reason why it was important to only use one Tree. That was「Combinations」.

If you learned skills from the same Skill Tree, then you can form a one-time「Combination」between those skills. Once you use the first skill it was possible to cancel the movement and activate the second skill in succession. For instance, if you learned【Ground Rush】from the Samurai Skill Tree【Lower Stance】, then was possible to connect it together with the skill【Upward Slice】that was from the same Tree.

Therefore, under normal conventions, Aran's Moon Step was a technique that should be impossible to accomplish.

From the【Lower Stance】Tree you used【Ground Rush】and the connected it together with the【Tsubame-Gaeshi】from the【Middle Stance】Tree, and lastly you would connect it with【All or Nothing】from the【Iai】Tree.

Of the many players who challenged the Moon Step and there were a few that claimed on the wiki「It's doable」. However, other than Aran's broadcast videos, there was no proof that such a feat was possible, and Moon Step remain a mysterious technique till this day.

「Bastard.....You can use the Moon step.....!？」

「Like you said earlier, the last move was【Diagonal Slash】from that『Fucked up Skill Build』though.....But, It's still good enough right?」

Edgar nimbly turned his body, and pointed the tip of his katana at the one-eyed Fighter. The moment he did so, the Monk who took his brunt of【Diagonal Slash】fell down and crumbled on the spot

「Uu, uuuu.....ㇿ」

The Fighter instinctively took a step back.

Witnessing Edgar use the Moon Step, that was enough to greatly extinguish his will to fight.

「What's the matter? Weren't you going to "educate" us? Bring it on already」
「.....Y-YOU BASTARRD.....!」

Like hell I can let this newbie make a fool out of me—
Falling for Edgar's provocation, the Fighter let his anger ooze out as he shouldered his giant sword.
However, Edgar's provoking words were merely「Bait」.

「I'LL FUUCKING KILL YOUUU!!」

Giving in to his anger, the Fighter charged at Edgar.
He held his blade by his side.
Using the momentum from pivoting with his right leg, he flailed the giant sword around in a large circle.
The Fighter used his area of effect Skill【Slash】.
Being careful of the Moon Step, he used his 【Slash】Attack over a large area. He was thinking of restricting Edgar's movement's with that attack.
However—

「Naive」

Once again Edgar's body glowed pale blue.
Edgar started to move at extreme speeds.
But, this time he did not circle around behind his opponent.
Where Edgar was headed, was right into the greatsword's path.
And, the moment his body was struck by the Fighter's greatsword, Edgar activated the Samurai Counter Skill【Tsubame-Gaeshi】.

「Aa.....Gaa!」

Signaling the activation of the skill a glittering effect came forth. Floating above the Fighter was a damage counter higher than the amount the Monk took.
Being supplemented by the additional damage gained from using a counter, the Fighter's health was depleted in an instant.

This is what made Moon Step truly terrifying.
If you matched the initial【Ground Rush】to sync up with your opponents attack then you could activate【Tsubame-Gaeshi】on them. If you completely focused on the timing, then you could unleash a powerful attack into your opponent's backside.
Moon Step was a technique with no openings; It was a technique to be feared in

terms of both offense and defense.

「You.....shitty bastard.....」

「From my point of view, **You** guys are the shitty bastards for Colluding」

Edgar swiftly sealed his katana back in it's saya.

As the Fighter fell down to his knees, his body turned into small orbs of light, and he disappeared.

「A-Amazing.....」

As if breathing a sigh of relief those words came out of Suzu and Megu. Level, Equipment, and Numbers. The odds were entirely stacked against him, and yet Edgar was victorious. Watching Edgar's battle, it was like seeing a sword fight being acted out on television, the beautiful sight was etched into their memories.

「You guys alright, Andou, Yamabuki」

「ah, yea, somehow.....but」

Forgetting that they need to recover their health, Andou managed to squeeze out a reply to Edgar who had turned to look at them.

「You seriously beat the two of them」

「Wait, you..... how come you can use the Moon Step?」

「.....Well, that is.....」

—*Now then, how should I explain this.*

As was expected, Andou and Yamabuki asked him that question. Edgar was carefully deliberating.

I let my anger get the best of me and I ended up using the Moon Step, so I expected them to ask me about it, but... I wonder what kind of explanation would satisfy them.

“Aran taught me the Moon Step.”

“The Moon Step was a technique that Aran and I developed together.”

No, here I should just say「Aran was one of my friends before I retired」, that might be the best thing to say right now.

「The truth is-」

「AANDOOOUUUU!!! YAMABUKIIIIII!!!」

Just as Edgar was about to open his mouth, an angry roar so loud that it could wake up the dead came from somewhere else.

The owner of the voice, wearing a terrifying Demon-like expression, was Megu.

「.....*Hiii*!? Megu-san!? 」

「HOW DARE YOU! LEAVING US BEHIND AND RUNNING OFF LIKE THAT!」

「W-W-We're sorry!! It's not what you think.....」

「HAA!? NOT WHAT I THINK!? THE HELL'S THAT SUPPOSE TO MEAN, HUH!!」

Pointed at the two, shimmering in Megu's hands, were her twin daggers. Really, it's just like I feared, Megu-san is planning on finished off these two.

「And don't say that to me, shouldn't you be saying that to Edgar who ran over to save you!」

「Y-You're right! Sorry, Edgar!」

「I'll NEVER forgive you twooo!!」

「.....Eeh!?」

「Wai-Hold on! Megu!」

Sensing the danger in the air, Suzu rushed over and grabbed Megu.

「LET ME GOO! SUZUU!」

「M-Megu! You can't! You can punish them after the quest ends! So let's focus on clearing the quest!」

So that means it's alright to punish them when this is over huh. As an innocent bystander, Edgar mumbled this in his heart as he watched the exchange between Megu and the others.

Making a loud ruckus, Megu was busy raising all hell. Edgar took his eyes off her for a moment and looked over at the watchtower. Maybe because the other parties already took them down, but the large number of orcs were now gone, and the sounds of battle could be heard coming from the heart of the watchtower. The remaining parties are probably, they must have started battle against the Boss Mob Orc King by now. Even if we went over there now, we would probably lose just on Mob kill score alone, so winning is pretty much impossible. Things will probably end up with the other parties killing the Boss Mob, but, in any case, we were able to achieve our objective of keeping Suzu and Megu alive to the

end.

I guess that's a victory in itself huh.

「Wait, Edgar-kun! Don't just stand there, Help me stop Megu!」

「Eh.....No, that's a bit.....I can't help you with that」

「EEEEH!? WHY NOT!?!」

Isn't that like asking me to help calm down an enraged god?

I mean, just look at her.

The Megu-san right now, she's way past the level of Orc, she's even scarier than the Supreme Dragon Drake.

In Dragon's Krone, people often say that teaming up in a Party makes things easier, but when I look at these guys, I have a feeling that joining a Party is 100 times more troublesome.

Like for the Grand Mission this time around, if I participated Solo then I could easily clear it by myself.

Parties are nothing but trouble. All the more so when you party with people you know in real life.

Still—

Even though it was nothing but problems and difficulties, it was just a little tiny bit— Fun.

Echoing out into the Field was the sound of Megu continuing to rampage, Suzu's voice trying to pacify her, and, louder than their cries for help when they were attacked by the Colluding Players, the terrified screams of Andou and Yamabuki.

And thus this marked the end of Edgar and friends' First Grand Mission.

Extra TL note #1: So to clarify, The reason why the Moon Step is called "MOON" step is because the "pale blue light" that comes out of Edgar is similar to the light of the moon.

So last chapter when it said "The Moon was walking" was suppose to mean something like "the light was so brilliant that it looked like the moon walking [across the ground]"

Extra TL note #2: The last part didn't really say Edgar and Friends, just "Edgar + Others". But you know, I find it cute this way.

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Chapter 9: Edgar and Aran

Really hectic day so this is really late. This is pretty much speed edited and I'll get to it tomorrow when I have time.

Oh well. This is the last chapter of Vol. 1 so I will be slowing down a bit as school starts to pick up. Maybe one or two chapters a week, who knows.

Enjoy.

Side Note: I finally did that [Character Page](#) thing. It's pretty much for people who have a hard time following the dialog. Check out the "Speech Pattern" for each character if you need help with that.

Volume 1: New Game+

Chapter 9: Edgar and Aran

More than usual, Ran felt that going to school was annoying. The reason for that, was of course because he wound up using「Moon Step」last night when they were playing Dragon's Krone. Andou and the others will likely come at him with a barrage of questions as a result.

In the end, it was 10 pm by the time they finished the Grand Mission. After defeating the PKers, Edgar and the rest of his party resumed hunting down Mobs, but the quest was over before they could even reach the Boss Mob. The end result: Their team was 3rd place out of 4.

The PKers that Edgar defeated were part of the 4th place team. Although he couldn't tell which team was the other Colluding party, once Edgar looked at the event points gained from dealing damage to the Boss Mob, he saw that there was a tight race in terms of points for 1st place and 2nd place team. Because of that he figured that the Colluding Party's plan didn't work out too well.

With their plans foiled, Suzu had reported the 2 PKers and the rest of their party to the administrators. Because of that they will probably be punished in the near future.

Incidentally, the reward for 3rd place was a measly amount of in-game currency.

It goes without saying that Megu's rage flared up to the next level.

Once the Grand Mission was over, Edgar was expecting Andou and Yamabuki to receive their「Punishment」and then for everyone to ask him about Moon Step, but that ended up being a needless worry.

First off, Megu, who didn't have permission from her family to be playing Dragon's Krone late into the night, quickly logged out while simply saying「We'll help Edgar level up tomorrow, kay」. Next was Suzu who also said with a smile「See you tomorrow at school」and logged out of Dragon's Krone.

Lastly, having luckily escaped their punishment, Andou and Yamabuki feared that the Terrifying Demon (Megu) might suddenly remember and log back on so they hastily said a few parting words and promptly logged out as well. And so, only a few minutes after having completed the Grand Mission, the only one left standing in the port city of Crescendo— was Edgar.

In other words, without even getting a chance to explain about the Moon Step, the party suddenly disbanded. Thus this was the start of Edgar's internal turmoil as he could only imagine what will happen the next day.

「Hey, Edogawaa!」

「.....ツ！」

In front of the Kasumigaoka HighSchool's front gate, the clear air shook. Abruptly calling out from behind was a panicked voice. Hearing his name, Ran reflexively froze up.

The person calling out to him, was one of the people from last night, someone who was with him in that other world. It was Andou.

「G-Good morning」

「About yesterday, thanks for that. Also one more thing, I have a bit of a *favor* to ask of you.....」

Andou looked deeply troubled, and his expression seemed like he was hesitant to say something.

Seeing him like that, Ran had a general idea of what he wanted to say.

「.....Perhaps, is it about Sasaki-san?[\[1\]](#)」

「You're pretty sharp huh. Yea, exactly that, can you tell Megu-san with your own words,『Andou has reflected on his actions so go easy on him』, can you do that

for me?」

“I’m begging you,” Andou brought his hands together as he prayed for help. Ran let out a small sigh.

In the Grand Mission Field yesterday they were somehow able to suppress Megu-san’s anger, but that rage will likely carry over to today.

The way things are now, if he went into the classroom then he would definitely witness a bloodbath.

「.....Is it alright that I don’t mention Yamabuki?」

「Uhh..... Yamabuki will.....We’ll offer him as a sacrifice to Megu-san.....」

“We can’t go on without making some sacrifices”^[2], Andou easily sold out his best friend.

If memory serves me, at the start of the quest, the one who lead the charge wasn’t Yamabuki. Wasn’t that **you**, Andou?

Nevertheless, to make Yamabuki into a scapegoat... You’re a pretty cruel fellow.

「.....I’m not sure if she’ll listen to what I have to say, but, well, I’ll try」

「Seriously!? Alright, I’m saved! You really saved my ass!! 」

「Hey, wai.....!」

With tears his eyes, as if he was an inmate being saved from death-row, Andou tightly hugged Ran.

In front of the school gate were two male students suddenly sharing a warm embrace. Although the surrounding students were oppressively stared at them, Andou payed no attention to them and continued to hug Ran while vigorously patting him on the back.

Still, I’m a bit relieved. It looks like I won’t be barraged with questions about the Moon Step.

It looks like Andou’s mind was thoroughly preoccupied with trying to escape the evil clutches of Sasaki-san. The person in question, Megu-san, is probably also spending all her time thinking of ways to execute that「Punishment」of hers that she didn’t get to carry out yesterday.

Suzu-san didn’t seem that interested in the first place, and Yamabuki should be in the exact same situation as Andou.

In order to keep Dragon’s Krone as a place of refuge, It would be best of nothing

came to pass of this incident.

With his doubts eased, Ran smoothed down his chest and felt relieved.

However, the moment he entered the classroom that thought of his was magnificently shattered.

* * *

「Hey, hey, Ed. ya know, Why's it that you can use the Moon Step?」
「.....Uhhhh」

The moment Ran sat in his desk, as if lying in wait for him with gleaming eyes, Megu rushed over to him.

Ran had made a grave miscalculation.

He had expected Megu to have her mind preoccupied with rage, but that anger was but a small drop in a vast ocean. The thing that captured most of her attention was the curiosity she held in Ran.

「Ed, is it, are you maybe friends with Aran?」
「Eh, no..... well, I guess you could put it that way, but.....」

Or rather, who the hell is “Ed”?

Seeking help, Ran glanced over at Andou and Yamabuki, but they did nothing but join their hands together as if pleading, “Become our sacrifice”.

「Anyways, ya know, yesterday you were like, so super cool 」
「.....Eh?」

「If I had to explain how cool Ed was when he stood up against those PK bastards..... How should I say..... You were like the main character in one of those movies, going off to save the heroine, something like that?」

“That would make me the heroine~”, Megu made sure to emphasize that part with a smile.

「Ed is like, you're all plain and gloomy, and you're always by yourself and seem lonely, I used to think something like that, but now I've got a whole new impression of you」
「W-Well thanks for that」

“Somehow, I feel that you just said an exceptionally rude thing though,” Ran thought to himself. But since he had absolutely no idea what was going on, Ran

just sat there nervously looking around.

Was Megu-san always this type of character?

I, too, have a completely new impression of you.

「And so, Ed. About what I said before-」

「Good Morning, Edogawa-kun」

While Megu was licking her lips as she zoned in on her prey (or at least it seemed that way), interrupting her words was Suzu who just entered the classroom.

It didn't seem like Suzu had any intention of asking Ran about what happened last night, and as she walked up to them while combing aside her chestnut brown hair with her pinky finger, the female classmates in their surroundings faded away upon seeing her dazzling smile.^[3]

As expected, Suzu is different from the rest.

「C'mon now Megu, You're troubling Edogawa-kun so quit it already」

「Ya, but, wasn't he like really *really* cool? Ah, didn't you say the same thing, Suzu?『Edgar-kun was so cool』」

「.....Eh?」

「ツ!?」

After those words were said, the entire classroom seemed like it became entirely frozen cold.

The classroom was once bustling with morning activities, but that icy atmosphere gradually spread, and everyone in the classroom was gazing over at Ran and the others.

「.....Something like **Kyun~** and getting emotional like that.....Aaa, what..... Suzu.....**Mmm,Hmnmf*!*」

「M-Me-MeMe, Megu!!」

As her white cheeks were dyed the color pink, Suzu got behind Megu and restrained her, muffling her mouth so that she wouldn't say anything else unnecessary.

「Edogawa-kun! That's not true! It's not what you think!」

「.....」

Faced with an abnormal situation that he had never experienced before, the current situation far exceeded Ran's mental capacity. He tried to analyze Suzu's flustered words as if he was some other person.

What's that suppose to mean.

When you say 'it's not true', what are you trying to point out.

Or rather, yesterday, you guys, you only invited me to even out the numbers right? Now that the Grand Mission is over we should've returned to being nothing just normal classmates.

With the exception of Megu-san, if you're not curious about the Moon Step then there should be no reason to talk to me. And for Megu-san, if I said something like「Long ago, I used to be Aran's friend so he told me how to use Moon Step before I retired」then she would probably accept that and the conversation would be over.

That way everything would return back to normal; you guys would play Dragon's Krone with your group of 4, and I will play it by myself.

With that, everything would be over, right?

「.....B-But you know, Edogawa-kun」

Suzu's voice once again disconnected Ran from his inner thoughts.

When he returned to his full senses, standing in front of him wasn't Megu, but, bringing her hands together, in front of him was the figure of Suzu, with her head held down and looking somewhat embarrassed—

Peeking out from behind her chestnut hair, those upturned eyes forcefully caused Ran's pulse rise.

「Yesterday I talked to Megu and, we decided that we should properly thank you. For playing Dragon's Krone together with us, and, umm..... for saving us that time」

「.....No, you don't really have to」

「Thank You, Edogawa-kun」

「.....ツ」

The sound of Suzu's soft voice gently floated into the air, Ran's cheeks began to blush.

Ran ended up thinking that this **must** be some sort of hallucination, like he was still stuck in the virtual world of Dragon's Krone.

「*Kufufu*, I'll say a couple of words then too. Thanks okay, Ed. And ya know, I'm not sure if it's much of a thank you, but when school's over today we'll go and help you level up」

「.....Eh?」

「Since we're only level 8, you'll catch up to us in no time Edogawa-kun」

「Ah~, don't worry. Andou and Yamabuki will also lend us a hand..... Isn't that right!?!」

Megu sent a glare at Andou and Yamabuki.

As if she had gotten a hold of their weaknesses, the two swiftly jumped to their feet and replied「With Pleasure!」.

It seems like Megu-san had not forgotten what happened yesterday, and was using it as an excuse to drag those two into compulsory service. I'm not entirely sure if that was Megu-san's idea, or if it was Suzu-san's idea though.

Girls really are to be feared.

「And so, after-school, is it okay if we all meet up again?」

「Ah, no, Megu-san」

Megu was raring to go, but Ran ended up speaking out.

It's true that level up with everyone, that doesn't have a bad ring to it.

All the more so since it will be with Suzu-san.

But, if I don't livestream as Aran then things will be bad. It might rub the people in charge at DICE the wrong way.

「.....Oh, sorry, did you have something planned?」

「No, umm..... well, I'm in no hurry, but there is an errand I need to do」

I can never say what it is though.

「I see.....Then I guess, today might be a bit difficult huh」

Megu let out a sigh that said, 'that kinda sucks.'

Having gotten the normally strong and forceful Megu to consent, Ran was feeling relieved. But, when he looked over at Suzu and saw into her eyes, he began to have second thoughts.

「.....Uuu」

What Ran saw reflected in his eyes, looking back at him in complete silence,

was Suzu who had an expression that said deep down in her heart that she was truly saddened—

A surging wave of guilt was swirling around in Ran’s heart.

Being swallowed up by that storm of guilt, Ran only had one way to escape it.

「.....No, let’s do it today」

「Eh?」

「Like I said, let’s go level up today. That errand, it will be fine if I don’t do it today」

「.....Really!?!」

Suzu’s face brightly lit up, and her mood rebounded.

Leveling up Edgar, and then livestreaming on Aran. It seems like I have a lot of sleepless nights lying ahead of me.

Socializing with others is truly troublesome. There’s nothing better than playing a VRMMO by yourself.

Ran grumbled to himself in his heart.

However, he still couldn’t resist Suzu’s smile. Breathing a small sigh, Ran let himself be pulled in.

Extra TL note #1: I seriously love the way Megu talks. It just sounds so... fitting. She uses a super casual “highschool girl” accent, and it’s absolutely the best. Too bad high school girl accents in english sound really annoying so I don’t know how to convey it properly.

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: As a reminder, Megu’s real name is Sasaki Megumi-san. I really wish ruby text worked on wordpress... Would make furigana easier

[2.](#)

TL note: “We can’t go on without making some sacrifices” is the same phase Andou used when he said “Ran is better than nothing” in chapter 2, back when they decided to invite Ran.

[3.](#)

TL note: Apparently Suzu's habit is to comb aside her hair, not twirl it (I blame the author for using weird kanji to describe it). I made the change to chapter 2, and Here's a [picture](#) for reference to what it should look like.

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Chapter 10: Ambushed by a Wizard

Happy Mother's day (although it probably passed for most of you).

School and other things have kept me busy so only one chapter this week but at least Volume 2 starts off with a long one. I'll do a second edit after studying.

Enjoy.

Extra: Oh, looks like the author converted Vol. 1 – Vol. 3 into digest form as I was translating this chapter. How funny. Oh well, time to read off my saved files then.

Side Note: The POV occasionally switches so do pay attention to it. ~~I also might change some adjectives after a bit of researching.~~

Edit: I got rid of the adjective "voluptuous" in favor of more "magic-like" adjectives.

Volume 2: Samurai Hunting

Chapter 10: Ambushed by a Magician

Since Dragon's Krone first started their service, there has been a constant cycle with various version updates, and so we end up with today's version. From adding Dungeons or Areas, to adding new Mobs and raw materials, and new items that could be crafted from said materials. But even among those things, the thing that the players demanded the most, and the thing that was swiftly implemented, was better usability for the Livestreaming and Browsing. Several improvements to Livestreaming has been made since the early days. Although the basic feature of paying in-game currency, 「Manila^[1]」, to view livestreams and videos was implemented into the system upon release, since then there has been many changes. Services such as 「Stream Viewer Rankings」 and 「Search Functions」, 「The Ability to Subscribe to Channels」, a genre system that placed video content into 「Category Settings」, many things such as these were added onto the streaming service later on.

In the present day, there were countless numbers of genres that you could

broadcast under in Dragon's Krone.

Of course the genre that Aran streamed under, "Mob Subjugation", was very popular among streamers and listeners, but another genre with deep-rooted fans was「Manufacturing」broadcasts.

Since there was no Class dedicated to crafting and manufacturing in Dragon's Krone, as long as you possessed the crafting designs known as a「Recipe」along with the necessary materials then it was possible for anyone to manufacture goods. If you possessed the one essential material for a Recipe, in other words a「Key Item」, then you could go to one of the many "Book Shops" and acquire the associated Recipe.

Manufacturing livestreams had a high level of practicality to them. Teaching you how to unlock a recipe by showing you the Key Item needed, Introducing the production process for a Rare Recipe, and also, listing places where you could go to obtain the materials you need. Manufacturing streams covered a wide-variety of subjects.

「Suzu~, Did you find any~?」

「Not yet~」

Multiple fragments of light were shining through the cracks in the tree line, desperately searching for something in the thicket were two Players.

The small elf with dark skin, Megu, and contrasting her was a girl with snow-white skin, Suzu.

This place was an Area that resided slightly to the West of the port city Crescendo, the two were in a clearing in the「Rabasta Woodlands」. After Players had progressed beyond Crescendo's surroundings, this Area was the next place they visited. From low level Mobs to higher ranked ones such as Goblin-type 「Forest Goblins」and cannibalistic plants known as 「Man Eaters」, the Mobs here were one step above those at Crescendo.

However, the reason Players visited this Area wasn't solely to level up.

An essential item, especially for low level Players. Here in this Area, it was possible to collect ingredients for crafting Healing Medicines.

「Hey, how many of these "Forest Herbs" do we need to make those healing medicines?」

「I think it was 2, but I want to collect as much as possible. I want to make

enough for everyone after all」

「Oh yea, you never know when something like yesterday might happen again huh～」

The two of them, Suzu and Megu, had come to the Rabasta Woodlands for this very purpose.

The「Something Like Yesterday」that Megu had mentioned, she was referring to a certain “accident” that occurred when their usual Party challenged a Dungeon not far off from Crescendo.

The person on tank duty, the Knight-class Yamabuki, had failed his job of Aggro Control, and the Mobs changed their targets to Megu and Suzu. Suzu was unable to keep up her healing magic and the party was in danger of getting wiped out.

Luckily, due to Edgar’s efforts, they were able to escape danger by a hair’s margin. ‘As a back-up, everyone should keep some healing medicine on reserve in case of an emergency,’ Suzu had such an idea.

「“Better to be safe than Sorry” is what they always say right」

「Yeah~, I guess so, but this place has some pretty strong Mobs so wouldn’t it be better to bring someone along? Like Yamabuki..... Or maybe, someone like Ed~?」

「.....ツ!」

‘In a certain sense, They’re both “Knights” right~’ Megu said with a grin.

「W-We shouldn’t go asking Edgar-kun and the others to help with these chores you know. Chores like these should be done by us rear-guard members, right?」

「Well, I get what you’re saying but..... Hey, what’s that suppose to mean! I am a spending member of the vanguard you know! I’m just in the rear because it’s dangerous for me to be in front!」

「Hmm, I wonder about that」

「Uwaa, How mean! It’s true that I haven’t been doing much lately, but still!」

「a ha ha, I’m kidding, I’m kidding」

Joking with each other, the sound of their laughter spread out and filled the dense forest.

Megu and Suzu have known each other since they enrolled at Kasumigaoka High-

School. Their personalities were the complete opposite from one another, but, perhaps they were drawn to each other because each of them had what the other one lacked. Before they knew it, they were doing just about everything together.

Of course, the same could be said even now after Megu had invited Suzu to play Dragon's Krone.

Even though they played together with Andou and Yamabuki a number of times, there were also many times where the two of them would have their so-called「Girl's Time」; strolled around together and having fun conversations.

「Oh hey, are you streaming today too?」

「I am, the audio is turned off though..... Oh, I found another Forest Herb~」

Suzu replied as a smile came over her face.

「I wonder about it every time, but we're just making healing medicine by following the normal course that anyone can do, will someone really watch your stream?」

「I'm not streaming for someone to watch you know. I'm using it to record what places we've been and where the ingredients drop. It's sort of like taking notes.」

「.....What's that. Kinda like a journal of where we've gone?」

「Yeah. Also, if we find a place where Mobs spawn that's not indicated on the Wiki, or if we get some rare ingredients on our way, we'd want to remember where stuff like that happened, right?」

It was not just this time, but every time Suzu went harvesting for ingredients she would start a livestream.

Starting a livestream costed some of the in-game currency Manila, but there are quite a few Players like Suzu who use streams in place of a daily activities log. There were also a variety of ways to use the videos. It could be used to record the places where ingredients are, but if you recorded a battle against Mobs then you could study your opponents attack patterns, and you could also revise and review your own way of fighting.

「Hmmm, I see. Suzu is smart huh. Maybe I should do it too」

「It might be a perfect fit for Megu since you don't have any sense of direction」

「Yea yea, like that..... Hey, I don't want to be told that by an airheaded like you!」

Along with Megu's snarling rant, Suzu's light laugh echoed out into the forest. —And, it was in that moment. A rustle, from behind the two was something pushing its way through the foliage.

「.....ツ!!」

Faster than Suzu could react, Megu had brandished her twin daggers in an instant, and widened her stance. But, the only thing Megu saw before her was a dimly lit forest. All there was were trees being swayed by the wind. There was no one to be found.

「Megu, that sound just now-」
「.....Something is here huh」

Sensing something, Suzu started chanting the defensive magic【Scutum I】just in case.

If a Mob had gotten close to them, then it would be a Forest Goblin, or a Man Eater.

It isn't an opponent the two of us can't defeat, but we've collected enough Forest Herbs already, so we should hurry up and return to Crescendo.

Suzu had come to such a conclusion, and was about to call out to Megu. It was then when-

「My apologies. Did I startle you?」
「.....ツ!」

With a rustling sound, emerging from inside the bushes was a lone Player. Based on looks alone the two of them could tell it was a high level player. Wearing an expensive looking red robe with a hood attached, was a Tall Female—

Flowing out from her hood was long curly black-hair, her exposed chest was quite alluring, a Woman with the class “Wizard”. Displayed above her was the name「Timbre^[2]」.

「You were in the middle of harvesting huh. Sorry for getting in your way」
「N-No.....We were thinking of heading back soon anyways」
「*Fumu*, is that so」

Although she didn't seem threatening, for some reason Suzu was overwhelmingly unnerved.

Perhaps because she felt the same way, Megu still stood with her daggers at the ready.

「Ummm.....Timbre-san, are you also here to harvest?」

「No, I'm not here for that per se..... Your name is..... Suzu?」

Saying those words, the Female Wizard, Timbre, slowly lowered her hood. It was too dark to see clearly, but the two of them could make out the particular characteristics of Timbre's Avatar.

Her pupils were slender like that of a cat's, and the whites of her eyes were instead dyed the color black. Her white pupil bewitchingly contrasted against the black exterior. Similar to Megu, she possessed dark skin. An Avatar of the Demon Race.

「Is something wrong with my name?」

「.....This might be an awkward question, but, did you guys participate in the Grand Mission the other day?」

「Eh? Grand Mission?」

「The Quest for the Mist Witch Lookout」

「.....We did participate, but what of it?」

Answering on Suzu's behalf, was Megu who still had her guard up. As if saying, 'If you make any strange movements I'll take you down immediately,' she continued to tightly grip the handles of her daggers.

「In your Party..... Was there a Samurai?」

Timbre continued on with her question. She didn't understand the meaning behind that question, but, maybe because of the eerie atmosphere here in the Rabasta Woodlands, but a uncomfortable feeling started to well up in Suzu's chest.

「One of our Friends was there with us. However..... I won't say anything other than that」

「What? A Friend?」

「Megu, let's go」

As that strange feeling in her chest turned into anxiety, Suzu grabbed on to

Megu's hand.

But—

「Wait」

Timbre's chilling voice stirred the air.

Those dreadful eyes made her seem all the more ominous.

「Can you tell me the name of that player?」

「Why's it that we have to tell **you** that, huh?」

「It's very important that I find out. And..... I don't want to resort to violent with you two」

As Megu refuted back, without having realized it, she saw Timbre grasping a sinister looking staff in her right hand.

「.....ツ!!」

Pulling along Suzu who was struggling to breath, Megu started to move. In this moment, deep down inside Megu had never felt more grateful that she had chosen the class Thief.

This was because, out of all the classes, the Thief class had Skills that ever effective even against experienced Players; The so-called「Escape Skills」.

「Like hell I'll ever tell you that-!」

As Megu let out an angry cry, from her feet came a gust, and a dust storm flew into the air.

The Thief Skill that could temporarily obscure your body:【Dust Smokebomb】. Spreading out into the area like a shroud of mist, Megu and Suzu's figures were completely concealed. Timbre had completely lost sight of the two.

「Suzu! We're Running!」

「Okay!」

「.....ツ!! W-Wait!!」

As Timbre's voice rang out, the air began to waver as if it was alive, and the temperature gradually began to rise.

In an instant, along with a blistering roar, the high level Skill from the Wizard's【Fire Magic】Tree,【Inferno】, shot out and cleared away Megu's【Dust Smokebomb】. Like dragons soaring into the heavens, several pillars of flame rose

up into the sky.

The rampaging magic converted the vegetation into Objects, and a few meters around her were turned into scorched earth.—

「.....Tsk」

Scattered in the surroundings, were the ruins of plants and charcoal. Megu and Suzu were nowhere to be seen.

* * *

「And so, that's what happened」

「.....that so-」

During lunch break in classroom filled with the sounds of afternoon laughter, gentle rays of sunlight shone through the windows.

Having adapted to playing as both Edgar and Aran, The drowsy Ran gave an emotionless response to Megu.

The subject that Megu was telling the thoroughly exhausted Ran about was, of course, the events at the Rabasta Woodlands: The「Ambushed by a Wizard Incident」.

Yesterday, during their Girls-Only-Outing in Dragon's Krone (Or at least that's what Megu and Suzu call it) the two of them were approached by a bewitching Wizard and then were attacked while they were talking to each other.

「It's not『that so~』! Me and Suzu were in serious trouble you know!」

「.....Timbre-san..... is like, ridiculously pretty isn't she」

「Eh?」

The person to let out those words, was the long-haired Yamabuki who was watching the video from Suzu's broadcast.

「.....You, of all things, **that** is what you have to say?」

「Eh? I mean, isn't she like dangerously pretty. With this level of beauty, she's like, beyond human level」

「Yamabuki-kun.....」

Ignoring Andou's warning, Yamabuki had entered full play-boy mode. Megu and Suzu looked at him with narrowed gazes, quietly dyed the color of contempt.

「Alright, let's leave the Gross Yamabuki alone. And so, that Wizard wasn't after us, but she was after the Samurai that went with us to the Grand Mission」
「Samurai..... You mean Edogawa?」

At Andou's words, everyone's gazes focused on Ran.
However, Ran was again nodding off with his mind half-way to dreamland.

「Edogawa-kun」
「.....huh?」

Suzu's voice shook Ran to his senses.

「Ed, why are you so sleepy like that? Maybe, after we all log out, do you keep playing all by yourself?」

「M-My bad. No, it's not like that.....」

The character I'm playing is a different one though.
Not saying it out-loud, Ran replied in his heart.

「Anyways, we've been talking about why a high level Player like that would be looking for Edgar」

「But you know, maybe she attacked you because Megu-san said something that got on her nerves, right? The video has no audio so it's just a guess though」

「Yeah, I think Andou-kun's guess might be true」

「Be quiet!」

Megu retorted with a snap.
I was a bit catty since she was sketchy, but that's not why she attacked us, is what I think. That Wizard was looking for our Friend who's a Samurai.....
Basically she wanted to know Ed's name.

「Edogawa-kun, is she someone you knew? Before you retired that is」
「No, I have no idea who she is. Also, Edgar is a character I made just recently, so there shouldn't be anyone who knows about it besides you and the others, Suzu-san」

More precisely, from the beginning I only made that character to play with Suzu-san and the others.

「Hey~, this Player called Timbre, she might be using a fake name ya know」

The person who cut into their conversation, was Yamabuki who was accessing the Dragon's Krone website using his smartphone.

It seems like Yamabuki was intent on finding the true identity of the bewitching woman, so he looked up the name "Timbre" in the Player database, but no Players by that name were found.

He sure works quickly, huh.

「..... Fake Name? Can you even do that?」

「It's possible to change your Player name whenever you want, as long as you pay the charges. Your Player Data is under your account name and not your player name, so it's possible to have duplicate player names. If you think about it that way then it should be possible to make fake names and aliases whenever you want to」

「Hmm~ so that's how it is」

‘I never knew~’ Megu nodded her head.

Name changes, this happened particularly often for popular livestreamers. If your name and appearance both matched each other, then you would create a commotion whenever you went out anywhere.

Incidentally, when Ran plays on Aran, aside from when he was streaming, he used aliases on a number of occasions when leaving his Home House.

They started off simple like「Edogawa」, then to names like「Igusa」and「Poe」. Even like the name「Edgar」which he is using for his sub-character, Ran has used a multitude of aliases up until this day.

「If you're right about the fake name, then she's like super suspicious. Oh, she might even be friends with those Colluding players」

「That certainly is a possibility」

No matter how you think about it, the reason why their Collusion plan failed was because of Me after all.

They're really barking up the wrong tree though.

「Anyways, it might be good if we refrain from individual activities though」

「Yea, you're right. If she approaches us again, then we should report her to the admins for harassment」

And with Andou's suggestion they decided to put off the "Ambushed by a

Wizard Incident” for tomorrow.

However, despite being absentminded due to his lack of sleep, Ran could not stop wondering about that Wizard.

Ran watch and re-watched Suzu’s footage a great number of times. Reflected on the screen of Ran’s smartphone was Timbre’s sleek, frightening eyes.

The faces of the Players that Aran knew flashed through his mind, but no matter how hard he tried he could not think of any Demon Race Female Wizards.

「What a pain in the ass」

Ran let out a quiet whisper that no one could hear. However, even though he let those words slip out, swirling around in Ran’s mind was the thought: “Looks like I’ll have to look into this properly.”

Extra TL note: The speakers confusing yet? Or did I do a good enough job that you could tell who’s talking. I could add in some of the confusing ones if some of you want but for the most part I think it’s readable. I also did that [Character Page](#) thing, if that’s any help.

Extra TL note #2: The words Manufacturing/Crafting are used interchangeably, I just pick one or the other arbitrarily. They are not separate terms. The same goes for the words Material/Ingredients.

Footnotes

[1.](#)

TL note: The name of the in-game currency used in Dragon’s Krone is “Manila”. It’s a type of paper, refers to the Abacá plant (used to make Manila hemp), and also the capital city of the Philippines.

[2.](#)

TL note: I originally translated Timbre’s name as “Timber”. After thinking about it, I’m pretty sure it should be spelled Timbre. Sounds more ominous than “a piece of wood”, no pun intended. Both words are pronounced as “Timber” though.

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Chapter 11: The Promise with Sonya

Turns out that the PDF format that I have chapters saved as makes it a hassle to reformat. It's doable but takes some time. I'll probably just go off webarchives since I'm lazy and school is already taking a lot of my time... Hmm, Oh well. Light edited as I need food.

Anyways, Enjoy.

Side Note: Last chapter I changed the name "Timber" into 「Timbre」. Same pronunciation just different meaning.

Also, in the Prologue the author changed the skill "Battojutsu" into "All or Nothing" (the skill that's used at the end of Moon Step)

Volume 2: Samurai Hunting

Chapter 11: The Promise with Sonya

「A Female Wizard PKer, is it?」

「A Wizard seemed like she was trying to PK some Friends, so I would like you to do a search and see if any similar incidents have occurred」

As Edgar arrived at his Home House, he called out to Sonya after she had greeted him. What he wanted to ask was about that subject.

Wanting to find out the true identity of the aforementioned Wizard, the first thing that came to Edgar's mind was to ask Sonya.

A Support NPC was as the name suggested, they could support the player by processing conversations through a Natural Language Processing interface. Aside from personal information stored on the Dragon's Krone server, they were able to access information from a variety of databases as well as open data on the internet.

In other words, by conversing with a Support NPC, it was possible for you to

search for information using a massive database.

「Understood, Edgar-sama. Please wait one moment」

Closing her eyes, as if she was deep in thought, Sonya remained silent for a while.

「..... Among the information maintained by the administrators, I have accessed the database in regards to exchanges between different Players, but I did not see any incidents that match with the desired specifications. However, lately on the internet there has been a steady rise in organic searches in relation to Dragon's Krone and a certain Keyword」

「What Keyword」

「It is『Samurai Hunting』」

「..... Samurai..... Hunting?」

Hearing Sonya say that Keyword, Edgar began to recall the words that Wizard had said.

According to Suzu-san and Megu-san, that Wizard was saying that she was looking for a Player with the class Samurai. A Wizard PKer who was searching for a Samurai. She must be related to this Keyword somehow.

Or rather, what is Samurai “**Hunting**” suppose to mean.

「Can you tell me the details?」

「I will be conducting an integrated analysis of the correlating databases so please wait one moment」

Sonya once again closed her eyelids.

Since the internet is a fragmented assembly of open data, you have to gather similar parts of information and associate them for analysis, only then can you come to an appropriate answer for what you are searching for.

If you had to do this all by hand then it would take an overwhelmingly long amount of time to complete this necessary step of information integration and analysis, you would probably pass out from exhaustion. But here in the world of Dragon's Krone, Sonya can utilize the architecture of “Cloud Computing” to increase her calculating power. It took her merely 1 second to complete the search.

「Samurai Hunting, within the past few days, it is something a portion of high

level players have been doing. It is the generic name for when Players go out and PK members of the Samurai Class」

「So it's PKing with Samurais as the target?」

「It is just as you say. Upon confirming it with the Dragon's Krone database, within the past 5 days there as been a large increase in mortality rates for Samurai Players due to PK」

「The reason being?」

「My apologies. I am unable to ascertain the reasoning behind it at this moment」

The information from the Net is probably gathered from victims posting on their SNS after all.

The victims themselves will probably have no way of knowing why they were attacked, huh.

「Hmm~」

High level Players are going after Samurais and PKing them.

Based on what Sonya said, there's a high possibility that the Wizard who attacked Suzu-san and Megu-san is somehow related to this「Samurai Hunting」. But, I just don't see a reason for it.

Incidents where a particular Class is targeted for PKing more frequently than others, this isn't the first time this has happened.

In the past, there was an incident where, due to a series of version updates, the Thief Class was buffed and became unbalanced. The discontent among Players erupted into an episode where Players took matters in their own hands and gradually started to PK Thiefs.

Because of that incident the population of Thief Classes steadily decreased, and in a panic the developers hurried to adjust the Thief Class's Stats. The incident ended with the Thief Class receiving a nerf; lowering their stats to a more mild level.

However, this time is different.

“Samurais will be buffed”, there was no information saying that would happen, and a version upgrade was still far off in the future.

In any case, this Samurai Hunting isn't a movement instigated by the vast majority of Players.

The driving force behind this..... For example, it might be something like personal

grudges against Samurais—

「..... Megu-san might be right about all this」

The words that Megu said in the classroom flashed back in Edgar's mind. As expected, that Wizard is friends with those「Colluding Players」..... Maybe she was trying to give her「Thanks」for what happened during the Grand Mission. As she was searching for me, she might have started to slowly PK Samurai Players, it's certainly a possibility.

「Edgar-sama, a Message has arrived」

And then, in the corner of his eye floated a new mail mark. There wasn't many Players who would sent this character a message, so Edgar could guess who it was from. It was probably one of his classmates trying to contact him.

「.....Today's hunt is canceled, huh」

The sender of the message was Suzu. The contents said「I wish to put today's gathering on hold」, something to that effect. The incident where they were attacked happened just yesterday. Not even a day has passed yet, so it wouldn't be strange if they were hesitant to log in and show their faces.

But, in that case, this was a chance to investigate about this「Samurai Hunting」.

「Edgar-sama, Shall I accompany you as well?」

「.....Eh?」

「Since your plans for today have been canceled, you were planning on investigating this『Samurai Hunting』incident, were you not? The people who are targeting Samurai are mid-level Players and above. Although you are an experienced player yourself, it is dangerous for you to act alone」

As if she could read his mind, Sonya offered up those words. Because Support NPCs are modeled after a conversation-based interface, using the behavioral patterns they observed from the Player so far, apparently it was possible for them to predict a Player's actions when they receive new information. Anticipating a Players thought process, and then Supporting them however they

can, in the end a Support NPC's duty is to make sure that the Player can have a fun, stress-free experience in Dragon's Krone.

「Now that you mention it Sonya, I did promise that『We would go hunting together when everything was taken care of』, didn't I」

「Is the problem taken care of?」

「.....Well, for the most part」

The problem was resolved in a way I never would've thought, though. To think, things would end up with Me frequently playing Dragon's Krone together with Suzu-san and the others... that result never crossed my mind.

「Oh, how delightful. Well then, let us depart immediately」

「Ah, hold on a second. We still have to prepare Sonya's equipment」

「My equipment, is it?」

「You weren't planning on heading out empty-handed right? I'll go and fetch something for you from Aran's item box. By the way, what kind of weapon would you like to use?」

Unlike Players, Support NPCs did not have an aspect known as「Class」. In place of that, they had the advantage of being able to equip any weapon or armor without any restrictions, although they had the demerit of not being able to use Skills.

Basically, it was quite difficult for Support NPCs to be the main attack power in battle, and although they could not use healing magic to save Players from danger, they could add supplemental damage when fighting against Mobs, and they could do other things such as use items that you gave them. Ultimately they are assigned「Support」duty when it comes to combat as well.

「Upon analyzing Edgar-sama's fighting style up until now, in order to not be a hindrance during combat, I believe that a long distance weapon such as a『Bow』 or a『Gun』would be best suited for this situation」

「Sonya, is that the type of weapon that *you* want to use?」

「.....and by that you mean?」

Not understanding the meaning behind the question, Sonya tilted her head to the side.

「Well, simply put, I wanted to hear your personal opinion about it, but..... I

guess I'm asking you a strange question huh」

I ended up saying something stupid, Edgar was feeling a slight sense of guilt inside.

Sonya was not a human.

She's only acting and saying what she believes is optimal after analyzing my actions; She is just a Program.

She doesn't have any personal desires, and the only feeling inside of her is, at most, the desire to help Players.

However, the next words to come out of Sonya were somewhat surprising.

「However, if Edgar-sama so inquires, then I would like to use a Bow. Using a Gun will be difficult after all..... And in addition, my specialty was using the Bow back in the old days」

「B-Back in the old days? The Bow?」

「Indeed so」

As Sonya nodded her head, Edgar could not hide his surprise.

She used to use bows in the past?

It can't be, does this mean that Sonya had an established「Past」from before I started playing Dragon's Krone?

「The Truth is..... Before I was sent to attend to Edgar-sama, I used to be a bow soldier at the Veroon Grand Duchy」

「ツ!? You're joking right?」

The Veroon Grand Duchy was a massive military country in the center of Dragon's Krone.

For her to be a bow soldier there— Wait, that would mean, Support NPCs were just normal NPCs throughout the world who chose to become Support NPCs? I've been playing Dragon's Krone for many years, but I've never heard of anything like that, and Sonya has never mentioned it, I haven't seen anything that would indicate that.

But, in order to make this Virtual World be as close to 「Real」as possible, I wouldn't even be surprised if such a Program really did exist. In other words, each and every one of the Support NPCs have a pre-determined backstory when they are created, and their histories interconnect with other NPCs, and—

「Fufu, just kidding」

「.....Eh?」

As Edgar's imagination continued to go out of control, Sonya interrupted him with a slight chuckle.

「I don't have a complex backstory like that. It's simply that my specialty weapon was designated when Edgar-sama first made his character」

「Wha.....!」

「I am terribly sorry, I was so happy that we would be going out together that I ended up joking around a bit」

Sonya stuck out her tongue slightly in a playful manner.

That gesture only made Edgar even more baffled.

I've said it many times, but Sonya analyzes my behavior, and then acts in the most optimal fashion according to a program. She is just a Program living in Dragon's Krone—

But, is Sonya really just a Program?

In the first place, here in this virtual world, are humans and programs really any different?

「.....Perhaps, have I made you angry?」

Edgar was stuck in a loop of questions that had no answer.

Seeing his expression, Sonya spoke up in concern.

「Ah, no, I'm not mad. I'm just a bit surprised」

「Is that so. That puts me at ease」

Showing him her never-changing smile, Edgar found himself feeling somewhat embarrassed.

Lately, I've been having a lot of embarrassing and awkward moments with Sonya.

Perhaps, even though I've never taken Sonya hunting with me before, I've been going out and playing with Suzu-san and the others. Maybe I'm feeling a bit guilty about it on the inside.

—I'm just overthinking things.

「Just wait a bit. I'll go grab a bow from Aran's item box」

「Yes, I have received your command. Please be careful on your way」

Sonya silently lowered her head and gave a bow.

Seeing him off like she always did, Edgar temporarily logged out of the Dragon's Krone world.

Extra TL note: This series has too many conspiracy theories. Suzu = 2nd best player, Wizard = Stalker, Sonya = Not Program, It just never ends.

Footnotes

I'm not familiar with computing terms so those might be a bit incorrectly used.

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Chapter 12: Sex Maniac and the USA

So while I was battling against midterms the Light Novel has since been released! I've added a bunch of pictures to the [Main Page](#), the [Character's Page](#), and also added an [Illustrations Page](#) for the pictures released to the public so far. If you wanted to support the author you can purchase the novel off CDJapan, [Link Here](#).

Keep in mind, the Character's Page will be updated periodically so there will be 2 new pictures in there that come from THIS chapter. If you wanted to read before you see the pictures then here's your heads up.

So yea, Basically I'm back so expect more chapters in the future.

Enjoy.

Volume 2: Samurai Hunting

Chapter 12: Sex Maniac and the USA

「My apologies, could you please repeat yourself once again?」

「Since I couldn't find a fitting bow for Sonya in Aran's item box, I figured that we should go out and make one instead」

「Go out, right now?」

「That's right」

「And also..... to *this* place? I, for one, thought that we were only going to head to the Rabasta Woodlands.....」

Edgar was calm and collected as Sonya was a bit perplexed. Their current location, far away from the starting port city of Crescendo, they were in a town by the name "Myune", standing inside a small book shop.

Myune was located in the center of the Grand Map in the vicinity of the「Veroon Grand Duchy」Area. Isolated on the outskirts of the Area, it was a small town surrounded by desert.

The Veroon Grand Duchy Area, to the North there is the「Demon King Magda's

Command Post」which many high level players flock to. In addition, scattered to the East and West are a number of key places necessary for mid-level player. In this world the Veroon Grand Duchy is the Area with the highest population density, and yet there are hardly any players living in this town of Myune. The reason for this was because the major city Vernewt located nearby. With many NPC vendors, an Auction House, and plenty of Story Events, Players often head to large city of Vernewt instead.

「For a while now I've been wanting to scout out Myune as a possible livestream location」

Although Myune was a town that had little practical use for your average player, it might be a valuable town for people who want to livestream without being interrupted by other players. Edgar had once thought of that idea and has since wanted to visit this town.

「Also, I read about it on the Wiki, but it looks like they're selling the recipe for a nice bow with pretty good cost-performance in this book shop」

「The place where Edgar-sama's good friends were attacked by that Wizard, was it not at the Rabasta Woodlands?」

「We're just stopping by... well I guess this is a pretty big detour. But, even though it will cost some money, we can just Fast Travel back so it isn't a big deal」

Edgar spoke as if it was a trivial matter.

Fast Travel was a convenient function that allowed you to instantly arrive at a town or dungeon you have previously visited. However, aside from traveling to your Home House, the distance you could travel was limited by how much in-game currency Manila you had to spend.

「It is true that returning back will take less time compared to us arriving here, but having come so far, I believe it will cost quite a sum of money.....」

「You shouldn't be worrying about the amount, Sonya. And besides, I brought more than enough money from Aran」

But regardless, the reality is that Edgar and Sonya had used a considerable amount of Manila just to reach Myune.

First off, they left the port city of Crescendo by sea and arrived at the city of

Gran Holts, in a region within the Veroon Grand Duchy. From there they used the regularly scheduled stagecoaches to reach the city of Vernewt. Once in Vernewt, they rented some horses and continued down a long barren road until finally arriving at Myune.

Of course, with Sonya being Sonya, she had already noticed that they were heading to a different location for a while now.

「Come on in. Would ya be looking for a Recipe?」

「We're looking for a Bow Recipe」

「The best one we've got would be the【Long Bow Creation Method Ⅲ】but..... Will that be alright wit you? A Samurai like yurself can't equip the bow that's made from that Recipe though」

Although each and every Class has a limitation on what weapons they can equip, among the available weapons for each class was something more or less like a 「Specialty Weapon」.

If you didn't have any particular preference in mind then the usual thing to do was to equip your Class's so-called specialty weapon. The reason for this was simple, it was because you could refine and enhance your specialty weapon's functions.

By equipping a specialty weapon you could draw out that weapon's latent abilities. For instance you can give it abnormal status debuffs such as「Poison」, and some weapons increase the number of hits per attack.

Although the bowman class, “Archer”, has the specialty weapon of a bow, from among those「Bows」there are a large variety of different types.

Long Range with high firepower behind each shot, but with the downside of being difficult to fire in rapid-succession and lowering your movement speed: The「Long Bow」. Conversely to that, there is the Short Range low firepower, but capable of rapid-fire shots: The 「Short Bow」. Furthermore, unlike a normal bow which uses「Angled Trajectory」, the highly accurate 「Bow Gun」which can only fire short distances with a linear trajectory, but with an even higher fire-rate than short bows.

Since Sonya is unable to use Skills her firepower is quite limited. Thinking that using a high-powered weapon might offset this a little, Edgar decided to have Sonya use a 「Long Bow」.

「It doesn't matter. The one equipping it will be Her」
「Heeh~, making your Companion equip it..... You're quite the sex maniac huh」
「.....ツ」

Looking at Sonya's figure as she stood close behind Edgar, the shopkeeper wore a mischievous smile.
What do you mean by "Sex Maniac". What's wrong with me setting things to my preference.
While glaring back at the shopkeeper, Edgar spat out those words in his heart.
Incidentally, "Companion" was another name for Support NPCs.
Often times Support NPCs that go hunting alongside their masters are called as such.

「Well~, Having a good look at your Companion here, I can't say I don't get where you're coming from」
「Well, Thanks」

While averting his eyes as to not see the shopkeeper's sneering grin, Edgar received the【Long Bow Creation Method Ⅲ】from him and put it in his item inventory.
We've got the Recipe now. Next is the Ingredients.
The「Composite Bow」that can be made from the【Long Bow Creation Method Ⅲ】does not require the use of materials above "Rare" class. It is a bow that could be crafted from "Common" and "Uncommon" class materials sold on the marketplace.
We should be able to gather all the ingredients necessary just by looking around town for a bit.

「Is Edgar-sama a『Sex Maniac』?」
「.....Pffft!」

The moment they exited the Book Shop, Sonya abruptly voiced those words.
Edgar unintentionally spat out his breath.

「According to the database, a Sex Manic is 『A Person of Peculiar Tastes』 and 『A Person with Strong Sexual Desires』. Synonyms include the words『Pervert』『Lecher』『Degenerate』『Erotomaniac』—*Mmmph*」
「Hey, Wait, STOP!」

Edgar hastily closed off Sonya's mouth.
What in the world is she saying all of a sudden. It's a good thing this place doesn't have many people.

「Listen carefully Sonya, be sure to never speak of this again」
「.....?? Understood, I have received your command」

While tilting her head to the side, Sonya acknowledged the words of the now panicking Edgar.

To think that bringing Sonya to hunt with me would carry such a "Risk" ...
—As I thought, hunting by yourself is much more stress-free.

"That bombshell must never see the light of day," with his thoughts in turmoil, Edgar went around to the other stores that sold Wood and Steel materials. However... silently following him from behind, and unbeknownst to the person in question, Sonya was adding a certain entry into her Programmed Learning Database:

「*Edgar-sama is a Sex Maniac*」.[\[1\]](#)

* * *

「It is an elegant bow, isn't it」
「It's not very high-grade, but for something that doesn't use Rare ingredients I think it turned out pretty good」

Edgar crafted the aforementioned composite bow and handed it over to Sonya, but a weapon was not the only thing that he gave her. Because the Gothic Lolita dress that fit Edgar's preferences was not very well suited for combat purposes, Edgar had prepared a complete set of Archer equipment.

Made from leather and dyed the color Moss Green was a「Ranger Jacket」, covering the arm from the shoulder down to the elbow was a「Ranger Spaulder」, and attached to only one of her knees was a「Ranger Poleyn」that allowed you to shoot from a kneeling position. All the equipment were chosen with an emphasis on mobility.

They were equipment being sold at your average armor shop, but since they had the additional attribute of Accuracy UP they were impressively effective relative to their price.

「Well then, Let's head back」

「Understood」

By traveling through Crescendo, we should be able to reach the Rabasta Woodlands where Suzu-san and Megu-san were attacked.

If our opponents are on the level of Forest Goblins, then Sonya should be able to defeat them on her own.

Thus, Edgar opened the Menu. But, as he was thinking of selecting the Fast Travel option, something happened.

「LIKE・I・SAID! There's no way, that's unreasonable!」

「.....What's going on?」

With its lack of Players, Myune was a quiet town. The occasional conversations of friendly NPCs gave the place a comforting and pleasant atmosphere. In such a town, a man's angry shout suddenly rang out.

「C-Can you please do something about that! When I return, I will be sure to return the money!」

「In that case you should just go ask your Friends or something! Asking me for help ain't going to get you anywhere!」

The commotion was coming from the center of Myune. In the middle of the town was a beautiful oasis; glimmers of light danced on water's surface as the sun reflected against it. Close by was a single general store.

At the entrance of the store, was a daunting old man who seemed like the storekeeper, and a Player who looked like she would burst into tears at any second.

It seems like the girl was being driven out by the storekeeper. A small young girl with rabbit ears, a Player with the name「USA」.

The half-human, half-beast Avatar she used was part of the Mohm race.

Unlike the Elf-race Megu and the Demon-race Timbre, and different from the Human-race Edgar, the Mohm race was a species similar to a Mascot Character for Dragon's Krone. Even as adults, people of the Mohm race will always have small and tiny bodies. [\[2\]](#)

「I, I don't have any Friends..... At this rate I won't be able to get back home to Crescendo.....」

「Like I care, you dunce! You have no one to blame but yourself, coming here at your Level without even a back-up plan!」

「Hnnn~.....」

Her rabbit ears drooped, the Mohm Girl hung her head down.

「I wonder what might be the problem」

「It's probably.....」

Hearing the exchange between the shopkeeper and the Mohm Girl, Edgar shifted his attention to them.

That Player has no way to get back to Crescendo.

Incidents like this often happened to beginner players.

As they start to increase their Level, they get absorbed in the Fun of defeating Mobs, and before they realize it they will find themselves in a location farther off than where they intended.

And so, if they are unlucky then they will step foot into a hazardous Area, and no matter how hard they try they can't defeat the Mobs attacking them. They will have no choice but to take refuge in a nearby town.

Being in a town surrounded by terrifying Mobs, if they had the money for it then they could Fast Travel back to their home town, but if they don't have the money then they will have to once again run past the field of Mobs. If they are killed by said Mobs then they will be sent back to their Home House, but all the items they gathered would be hopelessly lost.

And, it looks like that Mohm Girl committed that exact same mistake.

「Well, it's just like that shopkeeper said, you reap what you sow. Let's go, Sonya」

「Edgar-sama, as USA-san seems to be in quite the predicament, how about we, for instance, allowed her to Fast Travel along with us」

「.....Why would we do that?」

When Sonya's words came forth, Edgar was in disbelief at what he just heard.

「Why in the world do I have to go out of my way to help some random Player. Besides, if you die then you'll get sent back to your Home Home. She'd lose all her items and equipment, but it's not like she will be trapped in this town forever, right?」

「However, She is a Samurai just the same as Edgar-sama. If you took a look at her Status, then you will be able to see that she had just started playing not that long ago」

「.....Samurai」

At that one word, Edgar fixed his gaze on the Mohm Girl who was completely at a loss as she stood before the general store.

Edgar opened up the Menu, and confirmed the Status of his target.

It's like Sonya said, she's the same class as me. A Samurai huh.

Her equipment is「Cloth Armor」which is unusual for a Samurai, but the weapon on her waist is no doubt a katana.

Because the size is made to suit her height, it is a pretty cute katana though.

「Oh, this is her self-introduction」

Taking a look at the same Mohm Girl's Status, Sonya let out a couple of words. On the Status screen, At the very bottom.

There you could leave a Comment that acted like a sort of self-introduction.

And, looking at the one sentence written there, Edgar let out a small sigh.

「“I started playing because I admire the Samurai, Aran-san”—— She appears to be a fan of Edgar-sama, isn't she」

「.....Dammit」

Being in apparel magazines and game magazines, with his mass exposure in multi-media, there were quite a few Players who start playing Dragon's Krone out of admiration for Aran.

And so, being the popular livestreamer that he was, Edgar had an extreme weakness for those who admire him with words like “I'm a fan”.

Because he is a Loner in the real world, here in the virtual world he deeply cherishes his Fans and Listeners.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that it was「Imprinted in his brain」to care for them.

「Hey」

「.....ツ!？」

Being suddenly called out to, the Mohm Girl seized up and froze.

「..... Do you have no way of getting to Crescendo?」

「Eh? Eh, ummm..... Yes. That is.....」

She's desperately racking her mind for options, so she's that type of person huh.

While still being hesitantly scared, the Mohm Girl ever-so-slowly nodded her head.

「We were planning on heading back to Crescendo using Fast Travel, but..... well, how to put this. If you would like, do you want us to take you along with us?」

「.....ツ! REALLY!?!」

When using Fast Travel, the one who has to pay the Manila for it would be Me, the Party Leader.

Even if she doesn't have the money, if the Mohm Girl forms a Party with me then she should be able to go back to Crescendo with us.

It's not like Sonya and I will be harmed by it in any way. It's not too big of a deal I guess.

「B-But, I don't have any money you know?」

「That doesn't matter. I don't need any money」

「Ah, but, if it's materials from hunting Mobs on the way here, then I have those!」

Saying that, she took out a mountain's worth of「Saber Cat Fangs」「Lizardman Scales」and「Iwakui Bug Horns」from her item inventory.

Every one of those were materials dropped by the nearby Mobs.

If you sold them at a store then their price would be dirt cheap. Materials with the lowest rarity「Common Class」.

To be completely honest, I don't want it.

「No, there's no need. I know it seems very suspicious..... But I'm simply doing it out of good will」

「Eh, EHHHH!?!」

The Mohm Girl's rabbit ears shot up and stood their full-length in surprise. My, what a cute gesture.

「T-That is..... Really?」

With her body teetering from side to side, the Mohm Girl looked at Edgar for a long time with upturned eyes.

「Yea, no need to worry. Umm, U.S.A?」

「Awa~, Thank you so very much! I didn't know what to do when the general store owner-san said『Buzz off~ Like hell I'm going to give you healing items!』. I was really at my wit's end」

So... The general store shopkeeper was yelling because you tried to ask an NPC to loan you out items and tried to pay them back later, huh.
There's no way he would agree to that.

「Obviously. I get where he's coming from」

「You truly are my lifesaver! But..... umm, my name is “usa”」

「Eh?」

「It's usa. The usa from “Usagi”」

「.....Ohh」

I guess there's no one who would name themselves “Yu-Es-Ay (U.S.A.)” huh.
Well, it doesn't matter either way.[\[3\]](#)

Apart from the Edgar who was for some reason filled with exhaustion, Usa continued on while looking delighted.

「Edgar-san's class is Samurai as well isn't it. Were you alright, Edgar-san?」

「Alright? Why do you ask?」

「Because of the『Samurai Hunting』, you know」

Although Usa casually said those words without a second thought, Edgar staggered in response.

「What did you say?」

「I, the reason why I came to Myune was because I was chased here due to the『Samurai Hunting』 you know. Were you not attacked by people on your way here?」

「.....ツ!」

Edgar unintentionally swallowed his breath.

“*Samurai Hunting*”—

To think that I would be able to get information about『Samurai Hunting』out

here in this remote place.

「I'm sorry, about that incident, can you please explain it to me in detail」

At first I thought Sonya was out of her mind, and I was completely astonished by her suggestion to help, but I'm glad that I listened to her in the end. Thus, as Edgar whispered those thoughts to himself, Usa looked back at him with a puzzled look on her face.

Extra TL note: Usa's character design is just... so PERFECT. So perfect that I changed my profile pic into it (no more ren ashbell pic for now I guess). So if you see a rabbit girl in comments, it's still me

You can see Usa and Sonya in Ranger Outfit at the [Character's Page](#).

Footnotes

[1.](#)

TL note: The word for "Sex Maniac" is actually close to "Nympho". However, Nympho is technically only used to refer to girls and the male equivalent, Satyr, doesn't sound as good so I just went with the generic Sex Maniac. Also, LOL Sonya.

[2.](#)

TL note: The word "Mohm" is pronounced as "Mou-Mu". Took me a long time to come up with a phonetic equivalent but hopefully it's good, open to suggestions if someone has a better way to spell it.

[3.](#)

TL note: Usa's Player name is "USA", spelled in English and in all caps. Edgar misread the name as U.S.A. as in the United States of America (hence the Yu-Es-Ay pronunciation). Hopefully the way I inserted the U.S.A. parts tells you how Edgar pronounced it, and also hopefully most of you pronounced it that way in your heads to begin with.

Her name is suppose to be pronounced as the Usa (ウサ) from "Usa-gi" (ウサギ). Usagi means rabbit/bunny.

As a side-note: The title of this chapter is also USA spelled in English (with no periods).

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Chapter 13: A Lively Party

For those who celebrate, Happy 4th of July!

Enjoy

Side Note: Usa has a tendency to elongate her sentences so those are purposeful “misspellings”.

Also, Edgar only refers to Usa as “Usa” while Sonya uses “Usa-san”. I added in one speaker bubble to help clarify.

Volume 2: Samurai Hunting

Chapter 13: A Lively Party

Usa worked for an Apparel Brand company, and it was exactly one month ago when She, when「Hiiragi Yukako」, first started playing Dragon’s Krone.

The spark that drove her to play, was when she was in a bookstore reading a certain article in an apparel magazine—

The article was about a popular livestreamer from the VRMMO game「Dragon’s Krone」, a special feature about an in-game Avatar working as a Model for the apparel brand DICE; an article about Aran.

Yukako had always loved these types of subcultures, and once she knew about Aran she suddenly found herself checking his blog and SNS. From the moment she finished reading that article, she had already become a fan of Aran and of Dragon’s Krone.

And so, being swallowed up by her enthusiasm, she took the plunge and bought an UnChain device. Of course, her character’s class in Dragon’s Krone would no doubt be a Samurai. Aside from subculture, Yukako also adored small animals so, without a moment’s hesitation, she chose a half-rabbit Mohm race Avatar.

「And so, I thought that *maybe*~ using my real name would be a bad idea, so I thought of using the USA from usagi」

「.....I see」

You ended up tell me, a person you just met, your real name so I think your

worries were meaningless though.

“But, did you really think that through? I’m not entirely sure about that,” Edgar scratched his head.

「So, has Usa-san been playing Solo until now?」(Sonya)

「I have been playing with this child, my Companion. We’re nowhere near strong enough though」

「.....Oh my! How very cute. Your Companion is an Animal Type isn’t it」

A soft and gentle smile surfaced on Sonya’s face.

Timidly poking its head out from behind Usa, was a small black cat.

「His name is Momo. Come on now, Momo, say hello to Sonya-san and Edgar-san」

「.....H-Hello」

「Why, Hello there」

While still being scared, the black cat Momo lightly lowered its small head, and Sonya silently bowed in response.

The character customization for Support NPCs include a variety of different settings to choose from.

From human appearances like Sonya, to Cat types like Momo and even Dog types and Bird types. You could even make your Support NPC a “Spirit” type that didn’t exist in the real world.

Depending on the type of NPC you choose, they each had their own special characteristics.

Human types can equip weapons and armor the same as Players do, but non-human NPC types cannot equip them. In exchange, non-human types had fundamentally higher base stats, and a few of them have specialized skills depending on their type.

「.....Anyways, please tell me about this “Samurai Hunting” incident」

「Ah, I’m sorry for letting the conversation get off track. The Samurai Hunting incident, while we were hunting for Mobs, Momo and I were attacked when we left the Northern Area of Crescendo」

So that means, it happened when Usa left the Crescendo territory, and ended up in the Area between Crescendo and the Veroon Grand Duchy. In other words,

the incident occurred when she entered the “Saradin Basin”.

「.....With that level, you went into the Saradin Basin?」

Usa was level 11.

To enter the Saradin Basin at that level, just how reckless can you be?

The Saradin Basin is as the name implies, an Area surrounded by mountains.

Compared to the Crescendo territory, the high level Mobs that spawn here are one step stronger.

The Saradin Basin, beyond those mountains was the Veroon Grand Duchy where all low-level players want to establish their Home Houses in. It was a fearsome area which low-level players gave the name「The Devil’s Pass^[1]」.

「.....With Momo, when it’s just the two of us we can easily beat the Mobs in the Crescendo area, so I thought it *might* work out」

「So, you went after Mobs too strong for you?」

「That’s exactly right. At first I thought it would be a long journey, so I bought a bunch of healing items and Stamina potions, but during our very first battle in the Saradin Basin we ended up using almost all of them. We were in a really big pinch」

「.....I keep telling you to stop doing that you know?」

Interrupting Edgar and Usa’s conversation, quietly peeking out from behind Usa’s shadow, was Momo.

「But, Master keeps going『*It’ll be fine~*』and never listens」

「Uuu..... I’m sawwy. It’s all my faault」

Bending over, Usa’s ears flopped down.

Seeing her appearance, somewhere inside Edgar felt an instinct to protect it.

Apparently many players are “done in” by gestures like this from the Mohm race.

As expected of a Mascot Character, it’s incredibly cute.

「Well, don’t worry too much. It’s something that happens quite often to new players. And after that?」

「..... After that, I thought it was best to run away to Myune. Since Myune is in the center of the Area it was only a bit to the West, instead of returning to Crescendo I thought we might survive if we pushed forward and made it here. I ran with *all* my might. My Stamina and HP were just barely enough..... It was

only thanks to the healing items that we miraculously made it this far. But—」

In that moment, perhaps her fear began to resurface, Usa silently lowered her head. With downcast eyes, she continued.

「The moment when we entered the Veroon Grand Duchy Area, *that* person was there」

「That person? The Samurai Hunter?」

Usa firmly nodded her head.

「From a glance I could tell that they were a high level player. When that person caught sight of me they suddenly came and attacked me」

「That Player, was it as Wizard?」

「Yes. They were a Demon-race Wizard」

「Do you remember their name?」

「.....Umm I think it was something like “Tingler”, or maybe “Timbaru”, it was a name like that.....」

At Usa’s words, Edgar was struck with a thought.

According to Suzu-san the Wizard who attacked them was named Timbre. It’s very likely that she changed her name by now, but there’s also the possibility that her name might still resemble the old one in some way.

A Wizard with a similar name and is also part of the Demon-race.

We might’ve hit “Bingo”.

「Usa, thanks. You really helped me out」

「Y-You don’t have to thank me. I was also in a desperate situation where I had no idea how to get home after all」

“Thank you very much”, Usa bowed her head.

And, casually opening up his item inventory, Edgar handed something over to Usa.

「*Fue!*? E-EDGAR-SAN!?!」

When she saw the amount of money, both of Usa’s ears shot up so fast that you’d think they might fly off into the distance.

Held in Usa’s hands, was all the money Edgar had on him— In total the amount was more than 10,000 Manila, a hefty sum.

The amount was nearly 10 times the amount needed to Fast Travel from here to Crescendo.

「W-W-W-What is this!？」

「From here on out, Sonya and I will be heading to the place you mentioned. We wouldn't be able to Fast Travel together... but with that money you should be able to return back by yourself」

「I can't! T-This much money, There's no way I can accept it!!」

Trying to return the money in a panic, Usa grabbed hold of Edgar's hand. Typically in MMOs it is as difficult to earn in-game currency as it is in real life. Furthermore, since there are things like auction houses that facilitate the sale of highly rare items, the value of currency increases even more so. There are many cases where "Inflation" occurs.

And this also applied to Dragon's Krone, money was difficult to get your hands on.

By defeating Mobs you could sell the ingredients, by clearing quests from the Hunter's Guild you could earn rewards, and by manufacturing items you can sell them through different means such as auctions. In addition, as a livestreamer you can collect a viewing fee and make that your main source of income. However, each one of these methods are difficult for beginners which leads to them being eternally poor.

「Don't worry about. It's money that's just going to disappear if I get beaten by the surrounding Mobs anyways. It's fine if you think about it as a reward for giving me information about the Samurai Hunting」

「.....Uuu」

Tightly gripping the money Edgar gave her, Usa was stuck at an impasse. It's true that with this money, I should be able to get back to Crescendo. No, not just getting back, this is enough to buy back all the healing medicine and stamina potions I used up with change to spare.

When I first saw Edgar and Sonya here in Myune where you don't often see Players, I was extremely happy. But, I was hesitant to call out to them. If I, just some random Player, suddenly asked them if I could hitch a ride with them on Fast Travel, there's probably no one who would gladly accept those terms. In the first place, I'm only stuck in this situation because of my own stupid

mistakes.

Even so, although I was so stupid, Edgar-san granted my wish after I answered a simple question.

And, on top of it all, he gave me such a large amount of money too—

「..... Master?」

Momo took a peek at Usa's expression.

And, in the next moment, as if Usa had firmly gathered her resolve, she clenched her fists tightly, and shouted out a declaration.

「Edgar-saan!」

「.....ツ!? W-what is it?」

「This money, Allow me to consider it as payment for hiring me as a bodyguard!」

Usa spoke with feverish enthusiasm.

However, since Edgar and Sonya had absolutely no idea what she was talking about, they found themselves staring back with wide open eyes.

「W-what do you mean by that?」

「In other words..... I will be going with you! And then we will be going back to Crescendo together!」

「M-Master!?」

“That’s too reckless,” Momo instinctively clung onto Usa’s leg.

「Even though we were barely able to escape death by running away here, are you planning on fighting that Wizard again!? That’s pure suicide!」

「But there’s no way I can let Edgar-san and Sonya-san go alone after they gave us a helping hand, right! Besides, if we use this money to prepare and increase our chances, then we just might be able to beat that Wizard!」

「Well, but you know..... It’s just like Momo said, it’s pretty much suicide, right?」

「Uuu.....I, I’m a Samurai you know? I’m begging you, Edgar-san. Please let me help you」

“Let me help”, as Usa drew closer to him, it was a sight that looked like a child asking for a toy.

She boldly stated her feelings, and acted upon them. In such a situation, Edgar was thoroughly perplexed on what to do.

Then—

「How about we allow Usa-san to accompany us, Edgar-sama. It is better to have a larger Party after all, and if I am given healing items then I will be able to fulfill the role of Healer」

「.....ツ!」

「H-Hey wait, Sonya」

At Sonya's few words, Usa's expression lit up as a smile showed on her face. In contrast to that, Edgar looked like he had suddenly received a shocking surprise.

Hypothetically speaking, even if I ended up fighting against that Wizard, with my knowledge and technique, and with Sonya's Support, I'm confident that we will come out victorious.

But, that's an entirely different story if Usa and Momo came along.

Since she is a fan of Aran's, I can't go around carelessly using the Moon Step in front of Usa. And if you factor in that we will have to protect Usa during the fight, then the Wizard might exploit that fact to shift the battle in their favor.

However, thinking about it the other way around, Sonya's opinion does have some valid points as well.

If Sonya takes on the role of a Healer, then both Usa and I will be able to act as the Attackers. Even if Sonya used a powerful Composite Bow, there's no way she will be on the same level as a Samurai's explosive firepower.

Even if I won't be able to use the Moon Step or other techniques freely, we still might be able to overpower the Wizard.

「.....Usa, if we end up fighting that Wizard, my best guess is that our chances of winning are about 50-50. There's also the fact that we might be constantly attacked by Mobs on the way there. And yet, you're saying you still want to come along?」

—Most of that is a lie though, I just want to scare her out of it.

As he glanced over to Usa, Edgar added in that extra thought in his mind.

However, his scare tactics proved fruitless. While still shaking and trembling, Usa kept her fists clenched, and declared back.

「I-It will be fine! This all must be some kind of fate after all!」

Seeing Usa answer with such self-confidence, Edgar let out a small sigh.

Either this person is incredibly impulsive, or she's the type that can't see the things around her.

At least I'm pretty sure that she's grounded with good intentions though.

「.....Okay then. Let's go together, Usa」

「R, Really!？」

「Go and buy as much healing medicine and stamina potions as you can with the money and come back. Also, we'll need 3 rental horses」

「ROGER! Let's go, Momo!」

As if saying “No time to turn back now,” Usa and Momo vigorously dashed away.

Edgar absentmindedly watched that「One Person」and「One Animal」run off.

「Fufu, it sure has gotten quite lively, hasn't it」

「..... I never wished for that “liveliness” though」

As Sonya was happily giggling away with a smile, Edgar slouched his shoulders. Why do I always have to go along with all these troublesome things. Even though I was a carefree Solo Player not that long ago...

Characteristic of Myune, the air was mixed with bits of sand, and carrying the cold temperature of the Oasis, the wind blew before Edgar and Sonya. And, as if being supported by that wind, with an item inventory filled to the brim with healing items and stamina potions, was Usa and Momo waiting for them. Edgar's destination was the place where Usa was assaulted by the Samurai Hunter, the Saradin Basin on the boarder of the Veroon Grand Duchy. And so, they depart.

Footnotes

1.

TL note: “The Devil's Pass” is originally「鬼門」or “Kimon”, which means “Northeast” and in a religious context it refers to “the direction from which all demon's come from”. In context, “Kimon” is seen as an “evil” direction and is regarded as unlucky.

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Chapter 14: The Remains of Samurai Hunting (Part 1)

I have finals in 2 weeks so progress has been slow.

Anyways, Enjoy

Edit: This is chapter 14, I accidentally titled it as 13. Some aggregate site links may be broken.

Side Note: Edgar addresses Usa as just Usa. Sonya uses Usa-san. Momo uses Master (Goshujin).

To differentiate Momo from Edgar, I made Momo's speech more "unrefined" at times. Momo tends to mimic Usa and actually speaks in a slightly informal tone, but since that overlaps with Edgar's tone I opted to make it seem more colloquial (even though it really isn't that extreme)

Volume 2: Samurai Hunting

Chapter 14: The Remnants of Samurai Hunting (Part 1)

An MMO game with many Players online at the same time, these types of synchronized online games with multiple people playing at once had a variety of special features that differentiated them from typical Offline Games.

From among those features was the concept of "Time" being incorporated into the game itself.

"Morning", "Noon", and "Night". The flow of time would continue to proceed regardless of if you were Online or Offline. There were many RPGs that used this concept. For example, the same town or village would have different Events depending if you went there in the morning or at night, and in the Field you would encounter different kinds of enemies based on the time of day.

If you happened to finish the daytime event, and wanted to play the nighttime event, then in an Offline Game there was often a function that allowed you to instantly change the in-game time from day to night. However, such a feat wasn't possible for an MMO game where many Players were online at the same. If it takes 30 minutes of real world time for 1 day to pass in the game world, then

no matter how much you struggled you would have no choice but to wait 30 minutes for the next day to come.

「.....Maybe it would've been better if we waited until it was morning huuh」

While watching the silver moon illuminate the heavens, Usa let out those words as she swayed on her horse's back.

Several hours of in-game time had passed since they left Myune.

Leading at the vanguard was Edgar. Having previously traversed the Veroon Grand Duchy Area a countless number of times, he used his knowledge to avoid groups of Mobs by traveling down routes with relatively few of them. Trekking down the western bank of the mountain ridge, they were enroute to the Saradin Basin.

「It will be entirely alright. By the time we reach the border of the Saradin Basin where Usa-san was attacked, I believe the sun will most likely have risen by then. Conversely to that, if we were to leave Myune during the daytime, it would be nighttime when we arrive, so it is convenient that we were able to depart as quickly as we did」

「Is that so」

「There's quite a bit of distance to reach the Saradin Basin afta all. I also think it was a good decision to leave when we did ya know」

Paralleling Sonya's words, Momo answered in a whisper-like voice as he rode on Usa's shoulder.

Unlike when Edgar was headed to Myune in the first place, they took their time and slowly rode on horseback, leisurely making their way towards the Saradin Basin.

When they were headed to Myune, they were in a hurry because they used the horse's leg strength to outrun the Mobs until they were safe inside the town. However, this time was different.

The place where the aforementioned Wizard had attacked Usa, it was in a Field surrounded by Mobs.

If they attracted Mobs on the way there, then they would have to fight them on the spot, otherwise it will become an all out war when they reach the border of the Saradin Basin area. In the worse case scenario, the Wizard might be waiting around the area's border, in which case they might be struck in a pincer attack

between the Wizard and the Mobs.

Therefore, although they were traveling down a relatively safe route, Edgar proceeded carefully on horseback to not alert any Mobs.

「By the way Edgar-san, how come you're so knowledgeable about the Veroon Grand Duchy area? Even though you're level isn't much different from mine」
「Well actually, It's because I retired from this game once before. For various reasons I've started playing again」

「Eh? Edgar-san, you are a restarting player!? No wonder why, I had a feeling that you were way too calm in this sort of situation」

“I somehow understand now”, Usa looked back with a smile
However, on Edgar's side of things he had an expression like He was the one who couldn't understand.

Me? Calm?

I think you're mistaking my desire to not communicate with other people as that “calmness”

「Before you retired, what Class did you playing as?」

「The same as now, a Samurai」

「Is that true!? Edgar-san perhaps... Did you pick it because you're also a fan of Aran's!?」

「..... Just because I chose Samurai, how did it end up like that?」

As Usa continued happily chatting, Edgar felt a strange sense of unease on his back.

I've been told these type of things over and over again, but as expected I just can't get used to it. I have no idea how I should respond.

In the past, during a livestream he went around and asked Players if they were his fans, those Players would end up posted on their SNS comments along the lines of「Aran is an unsociable and conceited guy」. He couldn't interact with them besides in a blunt and awkward manner. Since he was sponsored by DICE, Aran thought that he should at least strive to be more sociable while he was in Dragon's Krone..... But no matter how many times he tried, he was only left with embarrassing experiences.

「Haa~ His technique is amazing, but the best part about Aran is how cool and stylish he is, isn't that right.....」

「Ara. I believe that Edgar-sama is just about as cool as Aran is though, Usa-san」
「.....Pff」

Then suddenly out of the blue, of all things, Sonya made a completely outrageous statement.

Edgar reflexively turned and gave her a menacing stare, but Sonya nonchalantly brushed it off as she responded back a small wink.

「Going out of his way to help out an unknown person, Edgar-sama is a kind gentleman」

「Well, it's true that he's the type person who would hand a random person like me a bunch of money without a second thought huh. I think that Edgar-san is a pretty nice person as well but..... Wait, even though you're about the same level as me, how come you had such a large amount of money like that?」

With Sonya's ridiculous statements setting him on edge, and having Usa suddenly asked a question that was difficult to answer, Edgar wore an expression of anguish on his face.

It would be great if we could just hurry up and find out the Wizard's true identity so I can just go back to Crescendo.

「.....We should hurry」

Edgar change his horse's gait from a walk to a canter; he increased it's speed. With a dash, Edgar's appearance grew ever so smaller, he went ahead and blended into the darkness of the night.

「Edgar-sama」

「Aaah! Hold on a-! Please wait for meee!」

Feeling that they might be left behind, the two of them pull back on the reins in a panic. They hastened to catch up to Edgar.

From beyond the darkness, you could faintly tell that the scenery was changing. Before they had realized the once desert landscape change to that of a mountain ridge.

Little by little, a whitish glow started to brighten up the eastern sky.

* * *

By the time Edgar and his group reached that place, the morning sun had started to peek out from above the mountains. The dryness of the place sucked the moisture out of the air, and the overall temperature was lower than it was in Myune.

Contrary to an ordinary Field, it was better to think of the mountain district as more like a Dungeon. The places you could reach on foot were few, so there was pretty much only one set path. Essentially, if you were to encounter Mobs then it wouldn't be possible to avoid battle and run past them.

「Just in case I'll ask you again. Usa, you're sure that the place you were attacked was just barely within the border of the area, right?」

「Yup. No mistaking it」

「There's no mistaking」

With his eyes on the MAP that displayed the surrounding area, Edgar asked for confirmation as Usa and Momo answered back.

Since Dragon's Krone required the exchange of massive amounts of data, larger than any MMO game before it, instead of being Open World without any demarcations for Areas, it went with the traditional method of clearly marking off each Area's boundary.

According to Usa, the place where they were attacked was around where the Area changes between the Veroon Grand Duchy and the Saradin Basin. In other words, once we move into the Saradin Basin Area, the instant our Avatars recognize that change, we will be in danger of being attacked.

「That would mean, there's a high possibility that the Samurai Hunter is waiting around the Area Change to ambush Samurai who pass by」

「The Players who enter this Saradin Basin are all beginners going through something like a rite of passage after all. You don't often see high level players going through here either. If you wanted to PK people then I think this would be the best spot」

「Alright. Let's get off the horses and proceed with caution. That Wizard might still be around here after all」

If that Wizard really is there, then it would be fine if they attacked us, but the most troublesome thing would be if they ran away.

If they waited in the Saradin Basin Area Change, while hiding in the shadows, then they could just Fast Travel away before we can even find them. Afterwards I doubt they would ever come back to this place.

But, our members only includes 2 low-level Samurai, a Companion and an Animal.

.....Well, I doubt they would choose to run from that.

「Woow~, it's soo pretty」

「It's a pretty nice view, huh」

Accidentally letting out words of admiration were Usa and Momo.

Edgar's group was slowly making their way by foot while in the shadow beneath the vast Veroon Grand Duchy Area.

Beyond the morning mist, the morning sun glistened and sparkled as it shone upon the largest city in the Veroon Grand Duchy Area; The City of Vernewt could be seen in the distance. Surrounded by rampart walls was an enormous black castle, and the contrasting misty earth made the sight look like exactly like a phantasmal illusion

It couldn't be described with words alone, the surreal sight was incredibly beautiful.

— How wonderful would it be if Suzu-san and I came here with just the two of us...

「Edgar-sama」

Then, from behind them came the voice of Sonya.

「Over there is...」

Sonya pointed out her finger.

The thing over there was..... No, 「The Things scattering there」, the first one to react to them was Usa.

「.....ツ! Those are..... Items dropped by Players?」

As they proceeded down the road to the Area Change, carelessly scattered on the ground, were Player Items that had converted into Objects.

Items that were converted into Objects... that would mean that this was a place where a Player had died.

However, up until now they had not seen any Items that had turned into Objects. Perhaps, if they were defeated by the Mobs that spawn in this mountain district, then it wouldn't be strange to find a number of dropped Objects along the way.

But the place where this item was dropped, it was just barely within the Area Change— It was just like where Usa said she was attacked.

In other words, there is something other than the Mobs waiting to ambush and hunt down this many Players.

「Sonya, be ready to provide Support. Usa and Momo, watch our surroundings」

「U-Understood!」

Silently, Edgar drew his Katana, and carefully made his way to the scattered items.

From the looks of it, there isn't anything there but the scattered items. No signs of Players or Mobs. That Wizard that attacked Usa, did they already leave... or are they still out hunting—

「This is, it's Samurai equipment」

Edgar placed one of the scattered items into his item inventory. One of the Samurai's specialty weapons, a two-handed katana, the「Nodachi」. Nodachi were among the initial katana you could craft. If they had this equipped, then the original owner must've just about graduated from being a beginner.

But, why were the items just left here. I could understand if they left behind the beginner equipment that won't go for much, but they even left behind the money and healing items. The Samurai Hunters, their objective isn't money or items. If that is true, then the reason behind the Samurai Hunting— *What exactly is it?*

「Edgar-saaan!!」

Suddenly, the sound of Usa's scream rang out and flew towards Edgar's ears. As Edgar quickly turned his head, reflected in his sights was Usa holding her katana in a fighting stance.

「Edgar-sama, an enemy」

Sonya called out as she readied her bow and pointed it at a boulder. And, facing Usa, on the opposite side of the Saradin Basin^[1], was the Wizard—No... it was a Mob you often see in mountain areas, the「Plateau Lizardman」. A Mob resembling a humanoid lizard, Plateau Lizardmen were said to be the mountain version of their waterbound Lizardman brethren. They possessed powerful poison, and were a difficult Mob to defeat with just physical attacks.

「Usa, stand back. I'll take it down」

As long as we still need to search this area, we can't have anyone getting hit by the Plateau Lizardman's poison attack.

If even one of our party members gets poisoned then we will have to retreat back to town.

To defeat it, it will have to be “No Damage”.

Fighting with the least amount of members in the shortest amount of time is Best.

Edgar kicked off the ground.

With the 「Nodachi」from earlier in his hands, he changed into the【Lower Stance】. Edgar's body jetted forth as if clinging to the earth.

By the time the Plateau Lizardman let out a roar, Edgar's katana had already clashed against its hard scales.

Footnotes

[1.](#)

TL note: The raws say “Rabasta Basin” here but since that makes no sense at all (the Rabasta Woodlands being where Suzu+Megu were attacked) I assume it was a typo and changed it to Saradin Basin.

Extra.

TL note: a Nodachi (or Odachi) is a really large nihonto that is generally regarded as a ceremonial sword due to its lack of use. As a reminder, Edgar's other sword is an Uchigatana. [Picture for reference.](#)

Chapter 15: The Remains of Samurai Hunting (Part 2)

So, it's been a while huh. Work and being sick really set me back. School has started again though so there should be some free time in between study. Hopefully I can get more chapters out next week.

Enjoy.

Volume 2: Samurai Hunting

Chapter 15: The Remnants of Samurai Hunting (Part 2)

He closed the distance with【Ground Rush】. Carrying on that momentum, the 「Nodachi」unleashed a swift slash that dug into the Plateau Lizardman's side. Edgar used both hands to deliver that attack. Yet, unlike the norm, only a pitiful effect shot out from the Plateau Lizardman's body.

「.....*Tsk*」

There was no response.

The damage it received was only in the 2 digits.

With my current level, there's no way to deal heavy damage with just ordinary attack, huh.

Because of Edgar's attack just now generated Aggro, the Plateau Lizardman's Target shifted from Usa to Edgar.

Gururu, as a sound rumbled in it's throat, the Plateau Lizardman looked towards Edgar with eyes devoid of intellect.

Suddenly—

In an instant you could see the Plateau Lizardman's throat puff up and swell, and it shot out a deadly toxin; it vomited out its 【Poison Saliva】.

A devastating attack that, if it connected, would put you into 「Poisoned Status」where you receive continuous damage.

However, the attack flew in a straight line.

Kicking off the ground with his left foot, Edgar shifted his center to the side. As the putrid smell brushed against Edgar's nostrils, the【Poison Saliva】missed its target, and turned the place where Edgar once stood into a repulsive violet flower.

「Edgar-saaan! Minor physical attack don't have *any*~ effect on Plateau Lizzardmen-!」
「I know that」

As Usa shouted out, Edgar let out a few words to himself in response. A Lizardman's special trait, was its extremely tough scales that protected its body like scale armor. With just low-level physical attacks, it was impossible to wound it in any way.

In order to defeat a high level Lizardman, it would be the correct choice to use magic attacks.

But, I know it.

This guy's weakness.

Edgar once again plunged forth using【Ground Rush】. What Edgar was met with was not a blade, but it was the *other* weapon that the Plateau Lizardman possessed, he was met by the「Talons」on both the Lizardman's hands.

Simply put, he was assaulted by claws.

As if trying to mow him down, the Plateau Lizardman violently swung its talons from right to left.

「Naive」

However, Edgar warped his body, he dodged the talons by a hair's breadth. The claws sliced through the air, it grazed off the tip of Edgar's nose. Having swung its right arm, the Plateau Lizardman was carried by the momentum and its posture shifted; The Lizardman's center of gravity was sent into disarray.

That's what I was waiting for.

Visible in Edgar's sights, was the Plateau Lizardman's pearl-like pupils—
Bang, kicking his back-foot off the ground, and placed his body weight onto

the tip of his sword.

The sharp blade tip of the Nodachi, as if wedging itself between the joints of scale armor, pierced through the Plateau Lizardman's eyes.

「Gyauuu!!」

As a flashy effect spewed forth, the Plateau Lizardman let out a dreadful shriek.

It had taken damage incomparable to the attack from before.

And, it was given the abnormal status of「Blindness」—

A status effect that greatly reduces your accuracy for a fixed period of time.

「N-NO WAY!? P-Physical attacks can work on Lizardmen!？」

Usa raised her voice in astonishment.

Usa, herself, was a much lower level when compared to Plateau Lizardmen; even a normal Lizardman would prove challenging for her to defeat.

If you are low level and encounter a Lizardman, you will need a Thief or Archer who can attack from long range, or a magic-class such as Wizard or Summoner in your Party. If your Party doesn't have those classes then it is best that you give up and run away; that sort of thing was written on the Wiki.

「It's not just for Lizardmen. There's always a method to fight against Mobs, one way or another」

Edgar shifted from the【Middle Stance】to the 【Upper Stance】. 【Diagonal-Slice】, a skill with a high Critical Hit rate, he swiftly let loose a slash at the squirming Plateau Lizardman's neck.

The neck area was covered by the same scales that coated its body. But, the moment Edgar's【Diagonal-Slice】made contact, a special effect that resembled blood dancing in the air, indicating that Lizardman had taken damage. With the Critical Hit amplifying the damage, the Plateau Lizardman's HP had melted away.

「EEEEHH, WHY!? Why did it take damage!？」

「If you want to take on a Lizardman and only have low-powered attacks at your disposal, then it's necessary to aim for its joints」

As Edgar sealed the large Nodachi back into its saya, the Plateau Lizardman

violently shook. Turning into orbs of light, it disappeared.

「T-The joints?」

「Their scales are pretty much the same as armor. Because of that, their weakness are the joints on their limbs. To get it to stop moving you have to go for their eyes first, and then you have to aim your attacks and hit in-between the gaps of their scale」

「T-Th-There's no way that's possible!」

So fast that you'd think her neck might come off, Usa vigorously shook her head side to side.

A Samurai's specialty was their offensive power.

Unlike the Knight-class and Fighter-class with high defensive power, or the Monk-class that has the highest HP by far, not only do Samurai have low defenses, but they also do not have much HP. Samurai were a highly offensive vanguard class that focused on one-shot attacks.

In other words, if a Samurai were to receive an attack, and if they are unable to dodge it, then they would immediately find themselves in a critical situation. Just like with the Plateau Lizardman they just faced, if you were to get hit by its Talon attack then it is very likely that all of your HP would be drained in just one hit. That serves to show how fragile the Samurai class was and how they needed protection.

While overcoming that fear and pressure, like passing through the eye of a needle, aiming for the Lizardman's tiny pupils, and then hitting in between the gaps in its joints was completely impossible—

Since Usa was a Samurai the same as Edgar, she knew painfully well the high degree of difficulty of the technique that Edgar had just effortlessly pulled off.

「It's true that it will require some practice, but this is a necessary technique. Especially when you go hunting Solo」

「I see. Since Master is always playing Solo, wouldn't it be best if you learned it? That technique」

「.....*Uuu*, you're right」

“But that's tooo impossiblee-“, In response to Momo's comment, Usa's ears depressingly hung over.

What. So this person is a loner just like me huh.

I kinda understand how she feels.

「Alright then. Usa, be on the look out for any Mobs that might come near. Sonya will come with me and search for anything that might be related to the Samurai Hunting」

「R, Roger-suu」

While still disheartened, Usa answered back.
It's just a feeling, but there's the possibility that more Lizardmen might show up soon.

Before they start showing up in groups, we have to hurry and search for some sort of evidence.

「..... Sonya?」

Just then, Edgar noticed that Sonya didn't say anything in reply.
Without fail, Sonya would always answer back with a prompt reply.
However, after having a look around, even though she was there just a second ago, Sonya was nowhere to be seen.

「Usa」

「..... Hm?」

Sensing something strangely amiss, Edgar called out to Usa.
It can't be, did she get attacked by some other Mob?
I screwed up. I should've been paying more attention to where Sonya was.

「Sonya has disappeared. Be careful of our surroundings」

Once again drawing his katana, Edgar advanced over to the boulder where Sonya was last seen.
And, that was when-

「..... Edgar-samaa!」

「Sonya!」

A blindspot that he couldn't see while fighting the Lizardman, Sonya was in the shadow of the boulder.

But, she's acting strange.

She's grabbing at her neck and looks like she's in pain, she's struggling like she's

trying to escape from something.

「Is something wrong! I'm coming now!」

「.....Hold up, stop right there」

「ッ!？」

Suddenly, from behind Sonya came the voice of an unknown man. The thing that attacked Sonya was not a Mob, it was a Player huh. Edgar immediately filled his presence with an intimidating aura.

「The way you act, it really doesn't fit yur level, ain't that right」

「..... You are.....」

Appearing from behind Sonya was a single man. From the looks of his indigo hooded robe he seems to be some type of magic-class. Peeking out from within the hood where a pair of sharp cat-like pupils, he must be part Demon-race.

「AH! HIM, It's Him, Edgar-san! He's the one who attacked me!」

Usa frantically pointed her finger at the man standing behind Sonya. His name was, Timberu.

It's true that his name is similar to 「Timbre」but..... it's not him. He's not the Wizard who attacked Suzu-san and Megu-san. You could change your name if you paid money, but that was the only thing. It was impossible to change your gender.

Also, this man is—

「.....You, you're a Summoner, huh」

The man's class wasn't Wizard, but a different class called Summoner. Their outward appearance may look similar, but it was a completely separate class from Wizard.

「Wut of it?」

「It's nothing. You're not the guy I've been searching for so I was just a bit disappointed is all」

「Dat so. As for me, you piqued my interest though」

「.....Uuh」

In the instant Timberu flashed a sly grin, an expression of pain came across

Sonya's face.

Edgar finally understood what was happening to Sonya's body.

Sonya was, her thin neck was being grasped from behind.

And, it was by the Mob Edgar has just defeated, a Plateau Lizardman—

「Let that person go. Your business is with *me*, right」

That is, one of the Summoner's skill trees【Undead Magic】. He's using that tree to make a【Servant of the Dead】huh. It's a skill that lets you summon a follower from a Mob or Player you defeated.

I see now. Looks like he used【Servants of the Dead】to hunt down Players and Mobs without any risk at all.

「This girl, she's your companion ha? Nice tastes you got there. I should kill her and make her one of my servants, that would be great」

「..... Hey, this is my last warning. Let-Her-Go」

The atmosphere around Edgar changed.

As if a fire had been lit, emanating from the depths of his body was, **Rage**.

「Ah, how scary~. I knew it, you're different from all the samurai I've murdered so far. You ain't scared at all by my【Servant of the Dead】..... I can tell you've got confidence in your skills」

「In that case, want to find out?」

「..... Go ahead. I'll be making this woman **mine**」

At those words, the Plateau Lizardman began to move.

Raising Sonya up into the air, it grasped tighter around her neck.

Her armor might increase her defenses, but it was useless against the strength of the Plateau Lizardman.

「Sonya-san!」

Usa's cry rang out, that was when.

The air began... to tremble.

For a brief instant, Usa's ears and eyes were assaulted by an intense blinding light and the sound of clashing steel.

Blown by the wind, a cloud of sand flew into the sky.

「.....ツ!?!」

Edgar had suddenly disappeared.
There was not a single person who could grasp those movements.

「I did warn you」

By the time Timberu had realized, Edgar had already finished his deed.
Cloaked in pale-blue light, Edgar struck down the Plateau Lizardman holding Sonya with a stroke of his blade.
Using the Moon Step, he finished it off with a single attack from behind.

「Edgar-sama..... Thank you for saving me」
「Are you alright, Sonya」

While sending a dagger-like gaze at Timberu, Edgar caught Sonya with one hand as she fell down.
It will be annoying trying to explain using the Moon Step in front of Usa, but that can't be helped.
I better think of an excuse for later.

「Bastard..... You are.....」

Seeing Edgar use the Moon Step right in front of him, Timberu let out hoarse words.

A powerful technique that every Dragon's Krone Player should know about, The Moon Step—

However, even knowing that, the expression on Timberu's face was not one of trembling fear... it was of mad ecstasy.

「Hahaha, You, IT WAS YOU! I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU!」
「..... What the?」

Found me? The hell does that mean?
Does this man know me? From where?

「Well nevermind. I'll have you tell me everything anyways」

There's no use thinking about it. The one who has all the answers is the guy right in front of me after all.
This man isn't the Wizard I'm looking for, but he's killing samurai so there's no doubt he is related to the「Samurai Hunting」.
If I can understand their motives, then I might get closer to finding out the true

identity of that Wizard.

In that case, let's give him a thorough beating.

I've got to include payback for Sonya after all.

「Edgar-sama, please be careful. That man... he has experience」

「I know that」

Separating from Sonya, Edgar gripped his sword with both hands.

This isn't like the PvP during the Grand Mission, it's PvP between two skilled players.

Now then, Let's have some fun, shall we—

Somewhere deep inside, Edgar had such a thought.

TL Side Note: I've added Timberu's artwork along with the Supreme Dragon Drake and a Bonus Character named Ramirezi from the novels. You can see them at the bottom of the [Character's Page](#).

Footnotes:

None

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Chapter 16: Necromancer

Sorry about the break, had midterms. So here's a bunch of chapters to make up for it.

Enjoy.

Side Note: Volume 2 of the Light Novel has been released. You can see what the volume 2 cover looks like (and also where to [buy it](#)) on the [Main Page](#).

Volume 2: Samurai Hunting

Chapter 16: Necromancer

Even among all the classes, Summoner was a class comparatively easy to use for Solo Players. So much so that the【Undead Magic】Skill Build for the class was specifically called the「Specialized for Solo Play」Summoner build.

Aside from 【Undead Magic】, there were other skill trees of【Fire Spirit Magic】【Water Spirit Magic】【Lightning Spirit Magic】and 【Earth Spirit Magic】. Each one of these builds consume Stamina to summon spirit servants, but they had the demerit that the spirits would disappear after a set amount of time.

If Summoners wished to re-summon their servant then it was possible to do so by chanting the magic aria, but if they were in the middle of battle then the defenseless summoner would be subject to concentrated attacks from Mobs, and would promptly find themselves transferred to their Home House.

In order to avoid this risk, a summoner must manage both the remaining time-limit as well as the flow of battle. Even more so for Solo Players, if you did not have a Tank in your party to receive attacks from Mobs then it was very difficult to utilize your abilities to their full potential.

However, if you chose to go down the【Undead Magic】build, then that playstyle would greatly change.

For【Undead Magic】there was the condition that servants were summoned from「Mobs or Players that you personally defeated」, but until the servant's HP reaches zero, or until the summoner used the 【Return】skill, a servant that was

called will not disappear.

In other words, a summoner with an【Undead Magic】build did not need to associate himself with a party. The Tank duty and the Healer duty, those responsibilities could be allocated to the summoned servants instead.

A Servant which lasts almost permanently—

And, there was one more reason why 【Undead Magic】 was said to be specialized for Solo Play.

「You ain't gonna say this is unfair, right?」

「Of course not. I know that this is how a Summoner fights, so there's no problem」

Edgar's expression looked like it changed slightly when he responded, the situation had greatly shifted from just few moments ago.

After finished his chant, appearing beside Timberu, was a repulsive number of Plateau Lizardmen.

Their numbers— 10 bodies.

This was the reason why the【Undead Magic】build suited Solo Play.

「Hold on a second! Wouldn't this normally be called unfair!?!」

Interjecting from the side was Usa.

Edgar unintentionally made a frown.

Even though you said he was the guy who attacked you... why are you even saying that at this point?

「A Summoner using 【Undead Magic】 can only call up to 10 bodies at once. I'm not trying to take his side, but what he's doing is not unfair」

「T-Ten bodies.....」

Naturally, the【Undead Magic】Summoner Build that could create armies of skeletons and zombies from only corpses, at the thought of the so-called「Necromancer」, Usa swallowed her breath.

「T-That's just fine! This is perfect! After all, I came along to help Edgar-san, you know! Why don't you bring it on!」

Shouting with vigor, Usa unsheathed the tiny katana on her waist.

Edgar was just about to say「You'll get in the way, so just stand back」, but he

held those words of advice in the back of his throat.

In order to fight against an【Undead Magic User】, it was necessary to swiftly pressure the Summoner's real body. Since he has been constantly hunting samurai at this place, it wouldn't be wrong to think that Timberu has a countless number of corpses to utilize his【Servant of the Dead】Skill.

The longer it takes to defeat him, the more the battle will shift in his favor.

In order to bring him into a one-on-one PvP situation, having Usa lend a hand is not a bad idea.

「Fine. I will be the Attacker. You and Sonya should take care of the Lizardman who come this way」

「U-Understood!」

「Listen up, Usa. A large number of Lizardmen will come to attack you. Don't stop your feet. "Hit-and-Away", be aware of your surroundings and aim for their weakness that I told you about earlier. Do you have a wide-range attack skill?」

If she has a wide-range skill, it might make it several times easier for her to fight.

For a Samurai, the earliest wide-range skill^[1] that could be learned would be the【Crescent Moon Slash】from the【Middle Stance】Tree.

We'd be pretty lucky if Usa actually learned it already though.

However, Usa's response was different from what Edgar had expected.

「Ummm..... W-What is that? If the Lizardmen stop moving, then, 'hit and away'^[2] ??」

Usa pattered about in a panic.

Edgar's thoughts were quickly thrown in disarray.

「Whatever then. What I mean to say is..... Just get the job done」

Well, it's not something you can do just by hearing it, and the opponents are【Servants of the Dead】. It might be best to not say anything and let her do things how she wants to.

Even if she can't understand the details, anything is fine as long as Sonya is protecting her.

「Yo, finished chatting yet?」

And, sounding like he was growing impatient, Timberu voiced a question. For him to wait for us to be properly prepared, he must be pretty confident in his skills, that or he's just stupid.

「..... I thought for sure you would attack us as we talked though」
「That would've been a good idea, but my motto is to do things "fair and square"」
「I see. That's quite the phrase coming from someone who takes pleasure in hunting down beginners」
「..... Haha」

And, as Timberu lightly jeered, he waved the staff in his right hand. The jewel adorned to the tip of the staff dimly shined, and the surrounding Plateau Lizardmen silently began to move.

The Lizardmen's movements felt like they were devoid of all life. An abnormal silence filled the air as the battle with the Summoner commenced.

* * *

Up until now, Ran had fought against【Necromancers】several times using Aran's Avatar.

During those times what the Summoners called were not Mobs, they were Players.

Based on the orders of the Summoner, the servants were able to make full use of both Skills and Magic. With waves of coordinated attacks, these「Dolls」created from Player data were infinitely harder to deal with than ones made from Mobs. However, Ran was able to deal with all of those servants.

The reason why: even though those【Servants of the Dead】seem invincible at first glance, they always have a certain weakness.

「Kill Them!!」

Taking the initiative, 3 of the Lizardmen attacked Edgar who was standing up front.

Rising up, they aimed for the throat from both sides.

Swiping horizontally as they aimed for the abdomen; Lowering their stance as they aimed for the legs—

Taking orders from Timberu as he took to the rear, the Lizardman charged forward and let loose powerful claw attacks from every direction— However,

each one of their attacks simply cut through empty air.

That was the first weakness of servants summoned through【Undead Magic】. The initial speed of the summoned servants attacks are much slower than their original selves.

For Edgar who has fought against countless Mobs and Players alike, those attacks were effortlessly seen through.

「You're a nuisance!」

Distorting his body, Edgar who had nimbly dodged the attacks by crouching down had started to activate a new Skill he just learned.

Returning the blade to the saya, tightly gripping the hilt, he drew the sword at blistering speeds, and unleashed it—

Left behind in the remnants of that swiftness, an effect indicating that damage had struck true. In the aftermath, the blade brilliantly danced as it returned to its saya.

For a Samurai it was the fastest skill they could perform, The 【Iai】Skill:【Razor Blaze】[\[3\]](#).

A pedal-like effect revolved around Edgar.

The high speed【Razor Blaze】pierced through the 3 Plataeu Lizardmen. Within a short amount of time, all of their health had dissipated and vanished.

「ッ!!」

The Lizardmen's bodies shook and swayed, and they faded away as they fell down on the spot.

Gazing upon Edgar who had instant-killed the Lizardmen, without a hint of surprise in his warped smile, was their puppeteer: Timberu.

「.....Hmph, as expected」

「For servants summoned through【Undead Magic】, they only possess about half the defensive power at most. It is easy enough to deal with【Servant of the Dead】Lizardmen by using swift attacks, despite their characteristic thick scales」

Unlike the「Living」Plataeu Lizardmen who can repel superficial attacks with their scales, if it is a「Dead」Plataeu Lizardman who was summoned, then even Usa's attack should be able to work against them.

That was the 2nd weakness; it was the main factor as to why Edgar let Usa take care of the other Lizardmen.

「'YES', that's right. However..... violence in numbers is a terrifying thing, ya know?」

「.....ツ!」

Timberu's staff once again emitted ominous light.

A short incantation.

You plan to summon more Lizardman huh.

「Usa! I'll leave the rear to you!」

Edgar kicked off the ground.

Matching that movement, Timberu drew his distance as he continued to summon Lizardmen.

The distance between us is about 10 meters.

If I can bridge this gap, then I will win.

If I don't manage to corner him— Then Timberu will win with overwhelming numbers.

「HOW AMUSING!」

Edgar promptly unleashed the Moon Step.

Covered by a pale ring of light, he slipped past a number of Lizardmen. Splashes of blood mixed into the air.

One after another, the Lizardmen once again became corpses.

However, Timberu did not stop his incantation as the Lizardmen continued to impede the way as meat shields.

「HA HA HA HA! COME ON NOW! IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP THEN YOUR STAMINA WON'T LAST!」

Moon Step was not a Skill, it was a Technique created from Skills.

Edgar was dazzling with pale light, as the distance between Timberu grew smaller and smaller, his Stamina was slowly depleting.

Will this distance to Timberu reach 0 first, or will Edgar's Stamina become 0—

「.....ツ!!」

Looking beyond the Lizardmen, he could see an indigo robe.

However, Edgar's blade could not reach that robe.

Edgar was able to bridge the 10 meter distance, but his Stamina had already become empty.

What decided this fate, was Edgar's total Stamina.

For the low level Edgar, his Stamina capacity was the one to lose out.

「HAHA! QUITE THE PUSHOVER, AREN'T YOU!『MOON STEP USER』!」

As if saying "This is the end", Timberu began his aria a second time.

Edgar was surrounded by a dark blue light, and from it came a number of Lizardmen, a number large enough to kill Edgar.

I win.

A look of mad ecstasy showed on Timberu's warped face.

But—

「..... The match is not yet decided」

Whispering those soft words, was a member of Edgar's Party, it was Sonya. Deafened by the cries of the defeated Lizardmen, Sonya's word did not reach Timberu's ears. But, he immediately understood what was happening faintly, a golden glow enveloped Edgar's figure.

That was, the effect of the「Energy Potion」that restores a fixed amount of Stamina.

「.....ツ！！」

Having his Stamina restored, Edgar's body once again shined with a pale-blue light.

Timberu jumped back a second time to try and widen the distance, but this time it was too late.

Where Edgar now stood, was behind Timberu.

Standing with their backs to each other, Edgar began to move.

In an instant. A flash—

「..... Now then, Let's hear what you have to say. How come you know about me?」

「Y-You bastard.....ツ」

As the Lizardmen surround Edgar simultaneously turned into particles of light, Edgar let loose a heavy blow to Timberu's back.

The 【Middle Stance】Skill that caused paralysis:【Blunt Strike】—

Receiving the【Blunt Strike】[\[4\]](#) from behind, Timberu’s body was robbed of its freedom; he fell down to his knees and collapsed.

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: A Wide-Range attack is also referred to as a ranged/cone/AOE attack. Since it’s a bit hard to imagine a sword slash as a “ranged” attack, I just went with the more literal translation.

[2.](#)

TL note: Hit-and-Away is a boxing technique otherwise known as “Out Boxing”. It involves quick footwork and swift attacks used to confuse and outmaneuver your opponent.

[3.](#)

TL note: The original name for the skill “Razor Blaze” is “Usuba Kagero”, which is more accurately translated as “Thin-blade Heat-haze”. I went with “Razor Blaze” because it helps demonstrate the “thinness” and “heat” of the original name.

As a side note, a Usuba knife is a thin knife used by chefs to slice vegetables ([Wiki Link](#)).

[4.](#)

TL note: “Blunt Strike” or otherwise known as “Mi ne Buchi” is a strike using the back/blunt side of a one-sided sword.

Chapter 17: The Samuari Hunter, is Hunted

Part 2

Enjoy.

Volume 2: Samurai Hunting

Chapter 17: The Samurai Hunter, is Hunted.

「Sonya, you really saved me there. Thanks」

With the surrounding Lizardmen now gone, and having confirmed that the only one left was the Summoner who had lost control of his body, Edgar offered a few words of thanks to his Partner who helping him out of a pinch.

It was my mistake for using Moon Step the same way I do with Aran.

In that moment, if Sonya had not used an Energy Potion on me... I might have been the one to lose instead.

Looks like I need to reassess Edgar's combat abilities.

「No, I did nothing worthy of thanks. The one who saved Edgar-sama was the person who protected me by dealing with the Lizardmen, it is Usa-san」

「.....Huh, Me?」

For Usa who did not expect her name to be mentioned, she stopped her movements as she was picking up the dropped items left by the Lizardmen. Both her ears stood up on ends.

Just as Edgar had requested, Usa cut down every single one of the Lizardmen who came near to Sonya.

As Usa defeated the Lizardmen who approached Sonya, new Lizardmen would instead be summoned closer to Edgar. Although I sort of get the feeling that she's somewhat at fault for putting me in a pinch, the person who put her all into protecting Sonya was without a doubt this small rabbit-eared Samurai.

「You're right. Thanks for saving me, Usa」

「eh, umm, no, that is..... I..... this is a bit embarrassing」

Fidgeting and turning, Usa's cheeks turned slightly red.

Embarrassing? Why is it embarrassing?

「.....I-In any case, there's something more important than that, Edgaar-saan!」
「W-What is it?」

「How come Edgar-san can use the Moon Step!?」

「Uuuh」

For a moment it was shoved into the corner of her mind as she focused solely on protecting Sonya, but that question had filled Usa's thoughts up to the brim. "How come Edgar-san can use the same Moon Step as Aran, the person I admire".

「He is my benefactor who saved me when I was trapped in Myune」 + 「A Master at using Moon Step」, having both of those titles bestowed upon him, Usa looked towards Edgar with longing envy.

「Perhaps Edgar-san is an acquaintance of Aran-san and you had him teach you how to use the Moon Step, and then the two of you—」
「S, Stop-」

Sure enough, being engulfed by her excitement, Usa grabbed hold of Edgar's hand as she questioned.

「Before any of that, I have to hear a couple of things from that spread out guy over there. Your questions will be for later」

「.....Y-You are right」

All the while stuck in a state of paralysis, Edgar pointed towards the demon-race Summoner who was spread out on the ground.

What exactly is Samurai Hunting.

What are your motives.

And, Why do you know about me.

.....Well, I am questioning him first, because I haven't thought of an excuse for Usa yet. That's another reason I suppose.

「.....Damn, like I thought, you're hella strong」

With the freedom over his body stolen, Timberu merely glanced at Edgar with an unpleasant smile.

「I'm going to ask a few questions」

「Haha, like hell I'll answer you, dumbass. Hurry up and kill me. I ain't got anything good in my inventory so it doesn't mean shit to me」

Timberu cackled and sneered.

Unlike in the real world, here in Dragon's Krone where death is a trivial penalty, threatening someone with murder doesn't have much of an effect.

Just as Timberu said, as long as you don't put anything into your item inventory, and if your equipment is nothing but cheap store-bought goods, then you can face death without ever fearing penalty.

「I see. So even someone like you can use their brains huh」

「No shit. Besides, the “spoils” from today's hunt were *really* good. Ain't that right『**Edgar-san**』? *Ku ku*, I'm glad I stuck around this place for so long」

Timberu wore a grin as if he was the true victor.

So his spoils of war would be my name huh.

—Hmph. To think he would open up his mouth like that.

「Thanks. A few questions are resolved now. I didn't think that you would give me answers even before I started questioning you though」

「.....Eh?」

Timberu's expression stiffed up for a second.

「I've understood 2 things from your words just now. First off, I knew that there were a few others besides you who are hunting samurai, but it looks like you hunters aren't affiliated with one another. If you were all cooperating with each other, then you wouldn't have spent your time stuck here for so long, and you would instead head to the place where my good friends were attacked」

「T-The reason for that is.....」

「And the 2nd thing. The person you are searching for is Me. Even though I don't know how you know my face, you didn't know my name. It's just a guess, but the reason why you know me, is because of a Screen Shot..... No, it's probably a video」

A Screen Shot is, as the name implies, a term to describe a snapshot in this world.

Unlike recording a video, it did not require the need for in-game currency. Anyone could just take a picture at their leisure.

A Screen Shot, or a Livestream Video. Those were both common methods that could display a Player's face but「Without displaying their name」.

「D-D-D-Didn't I, didn't I say I won't say anything」

Edgar's words were right on the mark, is what Timberu's expression was telling him.

「I haven't even started questioning, you right? But, before that... Sonya. Can you purchase a livestream time-slot for me? For the cost, please use the money left at the Home House. Make it free for others to view the stream. I want as much people to see it as possible」

「As you wish」

「.....W-What, a, a livestream slot? What do you plan on doing!?!」

Ignoring the panicking Timberu, Edgar opened up the livestream menu. An all so familiar window popped up. Being displayed within that window, was a reflection of Edgar's view. In other words, it was showing Timberu.

「Usa, with you included, there are quite a number of Players falling victim to the Samurai Hunting incident, am I right?」

「Eh.....? Umm..... Yes. It seems like a large number of Samurai Players are being attacked by PKers」

「As I had explained the other day, within the past few days the mortality rate of Samurai class Players has increased exponentially due to acts of PK. Based on that information, I believe it would not be incorrect to say that there has been a large number of victims」

Sonya softly added on that extra information.

「W-What of it, What do you mean!? What does that have to do with anything!?!」

「..... You, as expected, you're not that smart huh. What we're trying to say is, there are a ton of Samurai Players who are incredibly pissed-off at you 『Samurai Hunters』」

「.....ツ！！」

Finally getting a grasp on the current situation, Timberu's face instantly turned pale.

There was a reason why livestream videos and screen shots didn't display other people's names.

If perhaps the Player Name of an unrelated 3rd party was displayed, then it was possible to look up their Player Name and learn everything about their in-game information.

For example, depending on the current time and place, you could gain some extremely useful information.

And, if you were seeking revenge on someone for PKing you, then—

「..... Edgar-sama, I have finished purchasing your requested livestream time-slot」

「Thanks」

Sonya's voice rang out as if it were a death sentence.

And so, the status of the livestream window reflecting Edgar's vision changed from「Offline」to「Online」.

* * *

「Hello to all you Listeners out there. My name is Edgar. Let's see~, I believe this is the first time many of you have met me, but many of you are probably wondering why I have suddenly started streaming..... By a miraculous chance, today I have found a Player that I'm sure *many* of you have been searching for. Here is that player, his name is Tim—」

「WAAIT! WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! STOP IT! STOP THE LIVESTREEAAM!」

While Edgar started off the livestream in a manner that seemed like he was used to it, Timberu shouted and cried as he tried to interrupt the broadcast. What Edgar was currently broadcasting, was the「Name」and「Appearance」of Timberu: a member of the Samurai Hunters.

It was possible to change your name by paying money, but it would take time for the transaction to complete. Even if this guy is a PK Player, I still think that revealing someone's name is somewhat unethical. But even so, I still want to support those Samurai Players who have to play while being afraid of the shadows.

「I GET IT ALREADY, I'LL TALK, I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING! SO STOP THE STREAM ALREADY!」

「..... Just say that from the start then. So annoying」

“What a waste of money”, while grumbling to himself, Edgar switched the livestream status to Offline.

「So?」

「..... What you said before was right, the Samurai we have been searching for is You. I don't know any of the other guys, and I don't feel like getting all buddy-buddy with them either. If anything, they're not much different from enemies to me」

「And your motives?」

「It varies. There are a few guys who want to challenge you to some PvP, and there's also guys who just want to find out your identity. I'm part of the former」

「Why though? Why do you want to fight me in PvP?」

This Avatar's level is low, and its equipment isn't that great either. I still don't think that I will lose..... but there shouldn't be much merit in winning against me.

「Ain't it obvious. It's cuz the only one who can use Moon Step other than Aran is you」

「.....W-Wha!?!」

Edgar unintentionally gasped.

That's impossible.

It's true that a while ago I ended up using Moon Step in front of this guy, but aside from just now there shouldn't be any Players who know that I can use Moon Step.

When I went Mob hunting with Suzu and the others I didn't use it. Even when our group was about to get wiped out a few days ago, I still didn't use Moon Step.

Of course, even if they knew, Megu-san Andou and Yamabuki... they wouldn't—

「.....No, hold on a second」

Edgar slowly churned through his memories.

Within those memories, from the moment this Avatar was created, he traced back to that one Grand Mission.

The reckless Andou and Yamabuki.

The Colluding Players that attacked them.

Being carried away by his anger, the thing he used was— The Moon Step.

「Damn it. Maybe... it was during that Grand Mission huh」

I screwed up. I should've been more careful.

At that time, I don't know if it was the Fighter or the Monk— But one of them was recording it huh.

「Sonya. I need you to collect some info. Focus on searching videos」

「Understood. And for the Keyword?」

「Let's see... Go with『Moon Step』and『Mist Witch』」

Sonya closed her eyelids. She was accessing the massive database. And from that database, she pulled out any information that was related to the keywords Moon Step and Mist Witch.

「..... There are 160 corresponding results. As for videos that correspond to both Keywords, there is only 1」

「What is the name of the video?」

「The title is『The Mysterious Moon Step User at Mist Witch』. The video was submitted 1 week ago」

With that information, Edgar searched through the video rankings for the video in question.

And he started playing the video.

Being shown in the video was the figure of a completely unremarkable and average-looking Player. It was a figure he often saw in the real world; it was a picture of himself.

So it's true, huh.

There was still a video left over from that Grand Mission that showed me using the Moon Step.

And once the other Players saw this video, they came searching for me huh. Rather than pursuing Aran who has a much higher level and better equipment, if they chased after the low level Edgar with poor equipment, then they might be able to come close to realizing the secret behind Moon Step.

The only saving grace, is that there's only a small number of people who have seen this video.

「Sonya, put out a request to the Admins to remove that video. State that the reason is because the video was recorded by Colluding Players from the Grand Mission a few days ago」

「As you request」

Things have become really troublesome.
Even if the video does get taken down, there will still be some time before everything is resolved. And in the meantime the flames spread by the Samurai Hunters probably won't die down easily.

Most likely, there are more than just intermediate level players chasing after Edgar.

Even among the high ranked livestreamers, there are probably a few who want to add “I can use the Moon Step” to their descriptions. Those people might come desperately searching for Edgar.

「hey-, Edgar」

Towards Edgar who was making a bitter expression as he wrinkled his brow, Timberu called out in a hushed tone.

「How come you can use the Moon Step? Rather, how do you use it?」

「..... I have no reason to tell you」

More like, there's no way I would tell you.
Just how messed up is this guy's thought process.

「Aside from that, Timberu. I'll give you a warning. Don't ever go disclosing my name」

「O-Of course I know that」

「Listen here. If the Samurai Hunters somehow find out my name, it doesn't matter if you are innocent or guilty— I'll come searching for you even to the far ends of the planet」

「.....C-C'mon man. That's just cruel」

「Which one of us is the “cruel” one here」

Like you're one to talk, waiting here just to PK beginner players.
As I thought, maybe I should just continue the broadcast.

「I've told you everything I know. Isn't that enough?」

Timberu made an appeal as if saying, "Please spare me."
In those all so terrifying demon eyes, the remnants of tears started to surface.

「Let's see..... Usa, is there something you'd like to say to the man who attacked you?」

「..... Eh? Me?」

「If you like, you could finish him off you know?」

「EEH!? Um, no, uhh.....」

Being suddenly thrown a question by Edgar, Usa was completely caught off guard.

It's true that this person attacked me, and because of him we were trapped in Myune but... because of that I was able to meet Edgar-san.

I'm not really holding a grudge against him.

But still, in times like this you have to firmly teach them a lesson.

For the sake of other Samurai as well.

She mumbled and nodded to her self for some time, and, sharply returning to her senses, Usa cried out.

「If you do it again, T-T-T-Then I'll beat you up you hear! D-Don't look down on us Samuraai!」

While trying her best to fill her voice with a sense of intimidation, Usa's voice rang out into the surroundings.

The person herself tried to make a scary demonic face [\[1\]](#), wanting to instill in Timberu a sense of fear, but no matter how you looked at it, it only looked like a tiny girl overexerting herself as she acted all *tsun-tsun*. [\[2\]](#)

Frankly put, it was cute.

「..... Yeah, well... What she said. Don't underestimate Samurai」

Edgar added on those few words.

But unlike Usa, Edgar glanced towards Timberu with a menacing gaze. Welling up from within Timberu's throat, was a small, scream.

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: The “Demonic Face” that Usa made was her trying to imitate a Hannya mask. Wiki link for explanation and an example picture is [here](#).

[2.](#)

TL note: In case you didn’t know, Tsun-Tsun is the first half of tsundere, with Tsundere meaning something like “acting coldly at first then later lovey dovey”.

If I had to choose different words to describe Usa’s actions, it would be like “cute pouting”.

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Chapter 18: Friend

Part 3 and the end of volume 2.

Enjoy.

Volume 2: Samurai Hunting

Chapter 18: Friend

Before Edgar was, a clock that displayed both the in-game time and the real world time.

Having left Timberu in the Veroon Grand Duchy Area, Edgar had Fast Traveled from the mountain district to Crescendo and was unintentionally doing a double take as he looked towards the clock a second time.

It seemed as if he had noticed something terrible... In the real world— it was 2 am in the morning.

Tomorrow, or rather, Today is Wednesday.

Naturally it was not a holiday.

It looks like this will be another sleep deprived night.

「Edgar-san, I really am grateful to you」

While not taking notice of Edgar as he was momentarily feeling blue, Usa sincerely bowed her head.

Thinking of it, I don't know what she does in the real world, but I wonder if it's okay for Usa to be playing this late at night.

Although it doesn't concern me either way.

「No, it was thanks to you that I was able to understand more about the Samurai Hunting. You really helped me out」

「Even though they attacked your friend-sans, the Samurai Hunters will still be chasing after you, isn't that right Edgar-san?」

「Yeah, probably」

However, even while saying that, there was still one thing that was on Edgar's

mind.

I have a feeling that the Wizard somehow knew Suzu-san's name. And that she knew that Suzu-san and I are acquaintances.

Of course the video uploaded by those colluding players showed Suzu-san in it, but her name was obviously not displayed.

How come that Wizard knew Suzu-san's name

—I have a feeling that I might have overlooked something.

「But, the person who attacked my friends was not that Summoner, it was a different Player. I plan on doing a bit more searching in order to find the true culprit」

「Eh!? In that case, allow me to help you again! Let's search for that Wizard!」

「ツ!? Are you seriously saying that?」

「Of course! I'm super serious!」

Usa replies as she happily bounced about.

However, Edgar wore a troubled expression as he scratched his head.

It's true that being in a Party making it easier to fight, but I'll pass on that. If I'm alone then I don't have to be concerned about revealing any secrets. It's better not having to worry.

Also if I'm alone then I could also use Aran.

No matter how you think of it, it's better to investigate alone. If I need someone with me then just Sonya should be enough.

「Hmmm..... you're looking for a Female Wizard who is demon-race, right then. I will do my best to search for her! If anything comes up then I will contact you!」

「Hey, wait a second. You plan on searching on your own? She is a Samurai Hunter who's killing samurai you know?」

Usa looks completely different from me, so I doubt that she would be attacked... But the possibility isn't zero.

The truth is, Usa has already been attacked by that Summoner.

「T-That may be true. But I'll be fine! I, I'm confident in my ability to run away after all!」

「Well, even while being attacked by Mobs, Master was able to run all the way to the Veroon Grand Duchy Area. She is a talented person」

「..... See? Even Momo says so」

Sitting atop her shoulder while giving a big yawn, Usa rustled Momo's hair saying,「You're such a good child~」as she pet Momo on the head. But, I'm pretty sure Momo was making fun of you there.

「Edgar-sama, since it will be dangerous to have your Friends assist in searching for that Wizard, because they were shown in the Grand Mission footage, would it not be all right to cooperate alongside Usa-san?」

「If I need someone to come with me then you are enough, Sonya」

「In order to search for something, it is better to have multiple people rather than just one. Even the database says so, you know?」

「.....No, but」

Edgar folded his arms in response to Sonya's awfully persistent pressure. He thought it over with a sour expression.

It's true that Sonya does have a point.

Until that video is taken down, it might be a good idea to keep my distance from Suzu-san and the others. If that's the case, then it might be better to have Usa cooperate with me instead.

Well, in the end I'll only be chasing after that Wizard until the video gets taken down.

But until then, it might be okay to have some help, I guess...

「All right then. I'll be counting on you, Usa」

「ツ!! YAY!! Please treat me well! Shishou!!」

Usa looked like she was entirely and thoroughly delighted.

However, Edgar did not fail to miss that one word that Usa has shouted out.

「.....Hold up, what do you mean by “Shishou^{[\[1\]](#)”」}

「I've realized something today. That Aran-san isn't who I should be aspiring to be like. Saving me when I was in trouble, super cool and really strong..... I want to be like Edgar-san. **Ehehe**」

「What are you saying, Master」

「*I said it~*」starting to blush, Usa tried to hide her embarrassment by placing both hands on her red cheeks. Momo sent her a dampened gaze. And, Edgar also looked onward with an alarming stare.

「Therefore..... Edgar-san, is it all right if I call you Shishou」

「I refuse」

Bashfully fidgeting, Usa asked that question. But, like the swift slice of a katana, Edgar sharply replied with rejection.

Momo also said the same thing, but really, what the hell are you saying.

「EEHH!? WWHY NOT!? I-I'll do my best you know! One day I'll become a samurai like Edgar-san, and that way I can lend Edgar-san my strength too!」
「Don't need it」

In the last battle I relied on you a bit to help take care of the Lizardmen, but there's no way I'll fall so low to the point where I have to rely on your strength. You calling me your Shishou, I don't see any reason for that either.

「Uuu..... e-even if you say that..... umm... Oh, I-I'll send you a Friend Request, okay! That Wizard, if I find anything about her then I'll message you, okay!」
「I don't need that either」
「Hiiin.....」

At Edgar's unrelenting bitter expression, tears started to gather around Usa's eyes.

But, never losing heart, Usa opened up the menu, and sent Edgar a Friend Request.

「I-I sent you a request! All right then, I am finished now so I will be logging out okay! Thank you very much! Shish-..... Edgar-san! Sonya-san!」
「H-Hey, don't do that on your own! Wait, Hold on!」
「See ya later, Edgar, Sonya」(Momo)

Firing off a wave of「Verbal Attacks」, Usa and Momo disappeared, as if running away.

The only thing left, was a popup window in the corner of Edgar's view, notifying him of Usa's Friend Request.

「..... She was a bit rambunctious, but she was somewhat cute wasn't she, Edgar-sama」
「In what way. If I knew it would be this troublesome then I wouldn't have helped her back in Myune」

What the hell do you mean, “I want to be like you”.

Are you trying to get in the way of my precious alone time?

「I, for one, know it」

「Know what?」

「That Edgar-sama is a kind person」

「.....ツ!!」

Sonya wore a warm gentle smile.

Edgar's heart skipped a beat in surprise

「Edgar-sama, I believe it is about time for you to be logging out. You have been on much later than usual today」

「..... You... that's unfair」

Sonya sent him a fleeting glance as Edgar responded with a scowl.
Saying something like that, and then insisting that I log out.
Isn't that the same as quitting while you're ahead.

「Providing relief from the world on the other side, that is the reason why this world exists after all. I believe it is best to have moderation in your playtime」

「You know that I hate going to school」

「Of course. However, recently Edgar-sama seems to be having fun you know?」

「..... Having fun? Me? No way」

Shrugging his shoulder, Edgar let out a depressing laugh.
What kind of proof do you have to say something like that.

「Sonya knows it very well. I have been together with Edgar-sama for a long time after all」

「.....*Haa*」

Edgar let out a deep sigh as he grew further depressed with the idea that someone else might know him better than himself.
I look like I'm having fun? Playing Dragon's Krone with someone else is much more fun?
—*How Stupid.*

It's true what Sonya said, when I play with Suzu-san my heart dances. But, playing by myself is several times more enjoyable.

I live my life in this place.

That's why I have fun by myself.

Playing with classmates is where I draw the line. Friends in this world, I don't need them.

Especially not a rabbit-eared girl who calls me Shishou, I'll definitely pass on that.

「..... Later, Sonya. See you tomorrow」

「Okay. Sonya will always be looking forward to Edgar-sama's return」

Linking her hands together, Sonya gracefully gave a bow.

While watching Sonya, Edgar opened up the Menu.

Menu: Logout—

Edgar's body, starting from the feet, it started to change into beads of light. Being displayed in the window, were the words「In the Process of Logging Out」.

Before that that process could complete, Edgar looked over at Usa's friend request.

And, while clicking his tongue, he pressed「Accept」.

TL Side Note: And so we reach the end of Vol. 2 of the web novel! The Light Novel Version of Volume 1 includes Vol. 1 – Vol. 3 of the web novel, so you'll have to wait before I post some LN Volume 2 pictures.

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: Shishou means Master or Teacher. In context it is referred to someone who teaches you their trade/skills.

Chapter 19: A New Way to Have Fun

So the world hasn't ended (yet) so here's a chapter while we're still alive! This marks the start of Vol. 3 and the final arc in Volume 1 of the Light Novel.

Enjoy.

Volume 3: Let's Make a Clan!

Chapter 19: A New Way to Have Fun

The calming sound of a small brook brushed against the ear, The trees rustling in the wind.

As sunlight shone past the leaves and blotched the grassy field, a soft wind blew and brushed against the man's hair.

He was holding on to the hilt of the katana that hung from his waist. Focusing his weight on the balls of his feet, his heel spread out horizontally. Lowering his body, he stirred into action.

The man turned the mouth of his saya, and in the moment the katana was drawn, a dazzling light came forth, and the man's figure had vanished. Flowers began to dance, a number of lights dashed across the grassy land. To the Right, To the Left.

Every time the man disappeared, the flowers drifted and fluttered into the air. As if being freed from the constraints of gravity, they continued to drift about in the sky.

「..... *Fumu*」

After that light had run about several times, the man returned to the spot where he began— As if he had firmly grasped that sensation, Edgar returned the katana to its saya.

「If I include an attack skill then I can activate it 4 time..... If I don't include it then 5 times is the limit huh. The next time I level up should I put stats into DEX^[1], or should I put them into Stamina, it's a tough choice」

What Edgar wanted to confirm, was the drawback which he noticed during his PvP with the Samurai Hunter a few days ago. He wanted to better understand the Stamina consumption from using the Moon Step several times in succession. If I were to raise my DEX, then not only will the accuracy of my attacks increase, but my movements will become quicker and sharper.

In terms of the usage of Moon Step, DEX is an extremely important stat.

However, if I don't have any Stamina, I won't be able to use Moon Step in rapid succession. Just like with the Lizardmen from a few days ago, if I were to go up against a large number of Mobs then I also have to consider the fact that my Stamina might be depleted in just a few moments.

「.....Since I can supplement my DEX with equipment, I guess I should focus on Stamina for now」

Muttering this to himself, Edgar picked up a twig that had fallen by his feet, and he threw it into the air.

Drawing an arc in the sky, the small branch spun as it descended back to the earth.

Edgar immediately extended his hand and reached for the hilt of his katana. With his index finger and thumb pressed hard against the crossguard, it cut loose from the saya.

In an instant.

Light ran forth.

The disappearing blade sliced forth as if it was a mirage, and it once again returned to the saya.

The fastest strike, The 【Iai】Tree's 【Razor Blaze】, the branch was assaulted by it again and again.

A single branch became 2 branches, and then 3, and 4.

「*Fumu*」

Finally it fell down to the ground, in Edgar's hands were 9 fragments of a former branch.

A feat which required an astounding level of precision and timing.

Although some of the cuts revealed a margin of error due to his low DEX status, Edgar had displayed an overwhelming level of technique.

However, the expression Edgar wore was not one of satisfaction.

So this is Edgar's limit huh, if it was Aran then he could have cut it into 16 pieces at most.^[2]

As I thought, there is a major need to supplement my DEX.

Around this level wasn't there a belt or something that could increase my DEX.....

「A-Amazing.....」

「Hm?」

The pleasant sound of a voice brushed against his ear.

Watching the spectacle from within the shade of a tree was the figure of a person.

A Cleric clad in a white robe; Her name is Suzu.

As if watching a brilliant dance, Suzu let out those words as she watched Edgar transform the branch into tiny fragments within the blink of an eye.

「..... Oh, Suzu-san」

「P-Please excuse me, I didn't mean to spy on you」

「No, it's fine..... I don't really mind」

Being a bit embarrassed that he was seen diligently practicing, Edgar scratched the tip of his nose as he made a somewhat awkward and forced smile.

This beautiful grassy plain was not within a 'Field' in Dragon's Krone.

It was an area you could access through your Home House, a so-called「Training Grounds」.

This Training Ground was an Area that resembled your Home House, and although no Players can enter it unless you give them access, you could use Skills and Magic which normally can not be activated in a Home House.

「Edgar-kun, That thing from before..... Was that the Moon Step?」

「Yeah. Earlier when I fought against the Samurai Hunter I ended up running out of Stamina, so I just wanted to check out a couple of things」

There were a variety of functions in this Training Area.

For the purposes of practicing combination moves you could set your Stamina to infinite, and you can create a「Doll」or so-called copy of yourself to practice fighting against. If you allocate Skills for the doll to use, then you could even practice some PvP with this function.

Many players spend several long hours here in this Area, making full use of the Training Ground's functions. When he is playing as Edgar and Aran, Ran would spend expended periods of time caged up in this training place; perhaps for even longer than he spent going out hunting.

「Wow, so the Moon Step also its weak points」

「There is no technique in this world that doesn't have its weaknesses. If there was one then the admins would patch it after all」

「I see. I suppose that makes sense」

Although Moon Step is a technique that utilizes several Skills, unlike the Combination attacks that use skills from the same skill tree, the mechanic of「Stamina Reduction for successive activations」did not apply. The Moon Step burns off Stamina like no tomorrow.

That was one of the few weaknesses of the perfect offensive and defensive technique: Moon Step.

「.....Are you not interested about the Moon Step, Suzu-san?」

「Eh?」

「I mean, 'How do you use it?', or something like that」

That was something that somewhat perplexed Edgar. Andou and Yamabuki, and also Megu, although those kind of questions haven't been asked recently, and there hasn't been much opportunity to bring it up like they are right now, but when they first started playing together those type of questions were endlessly thrown Edgar's way.

However, whenever Suzu was with Edgar she had never once asked about that subject.

「Hmm~, I don't know about Megu and the others, but I'm not that great at those kind of complicated things..... Also I'm not a Samurai so there's no need to know it, right?」

「*Fumu*」

「Oh, but there are a few things I'm curious about, you know? Like, since you are one of Aran's acquaintances, umm-..... What kind of person is Aran-san? stuff like that」

「Eh? That's what you want to ask?」

An unexpected question that came from Suzu's mouth.
Is Suzu-san a bit interested in Aran as well? She never behaved like she was interested in the past, so I thought she was indifferent about him.

「But, it's fine. I'm having lots of fun playing Dragon's Krone with Edgar-kun after all」
「.....Eh?」

Continuing on, the words that came from her mouth caused Edgar to instinctively do a double take as he looked at Suzu.
Fun? Playing with ME is?
It can't be.

「Uhhh, by that, what do you mean?」
「.....? Ah」

After thinking a while, Suzu finally realized the meaning behind the words she had just said.
As if it had been set ablaze, a bright red color quickly rose up and flushed her entire face.

「I, I didn't mean it like that! What I meant to say was, Playing with Ran-kun or Megu or Andou-kun, I meant that it's fun when we all play together, okay!?!」
「..... What about Yamabuki?」
「Y-, Yamabuki-kun too」

“Of course him too,” Suzu replied in a panic.
The out-of-place playboy, Yamabuki. I shouldn't be one to talk, but I pity the guy.

No, who cares about Yamabuki.
More importantly, I was dangerously close to getting the wrong idea about the meaning behind Suzu-san's words just now.
If there's one thing I've learned so far, it is that Suzu-san doesn't hate having to talk to me, or doesn't seem that way.
At the very least it isn't「In order to participate in the Grand Mission, I'll put up with having to deal with the gross Edogawa-kun」, and it wasn't「I, I always wanted to talk with Edogawa-kun」either. It was a very “Neutral” kind of feeling.

[\[3\]](#)

Since I have no idea what she's thinking, I end up misunderstanding things by

accident.

Please spare me from that.

「..... I see. So that's why, Suzu-san suggested we do that thing huh」

「Suggested? You mean at school? Yup, that's right」

As he was remembering the past Edgar muttered those words, Suzu answered back with her cheeks still slightly flushed.

「Hey, how about we get going soon? If we don't get the job done then-」(Suzu)

「.....I guess so」

Edgar scratched his cheek as if it was a bit bothersome, and he opened up the Menu so they could leave the Training Area.

Seeing Edgar that way Suzu also showed a look of worry, so Edgar flashed a smile for her to see.

What Suzu had suggested back at school—
It was... Honestly speaking it was a topic that Edgar was not very enthusiastic about.

* * *

「.....Eh? You want to make a clan?」(Ran)

「Yeah. A Clan, that sort of thing..... Wouldn't that be like we're on a Team?

That's why I want to make one with everyone」(Suzu)

It was on a rainy afternoon, during lunch break as the cold rain continued to gently poured down.

As the usual members were gathered to discuss their afterschool Dragon's Krone activities, Suzu suddenly brought up that suggestion.

As Suzu had said, a Clan is somewhat of a 「Team」; it was a group of people gathered together with the same purpose in mind.

In Dragon's Krone, there was a Clan System implemented into it, so Players could freely create Clans as they wished.

「Suzu, that idea sounds awesome! Let's make a Clan! That way we'd all look like comrades, I'm getting excited just thinking 'bout it!」

Promptly voicing her approval was Megu.

「It sure would. Yamabuki and I only play with Megu and the gang anyways」
(Andou)

「Yea, I'm cool with it either way though?」(Yamabuki)

「.....」(Ran)

Giving their endorsement, Andou and Yamabuki each in turn added to the tension

However, among them was one person; only Ran didn't show any interest.

A Clan in game terms was an「Organization」that you were「Affiliated」with. Each Clan had a purpose, and if you belonged to such a Clan, then it shows your own approval of that Clan's objectives. It also acts as a declaration that you will contribute towards that purpose.

In the past, there has only been one time when Ran was part of Clan. The purpose of the Clan was not for socializing. It was created in order to defeat the most powerful Mobs; A Clan founded on the principle that strength and ability ruled supreme.

This was before Aran had made a name for himself as a popular livestreamer, he entered the clan in order to polish his own techniques. One of the clan rules was that if you couldn't handle being around another clan member then you should withdraw from the clan immediately.

Once you enter a clan gain a responsibility, one that says you must follow the rules

For Ran who has a strong loner's spirit, that is something that he wants to avoid the most. Clans were a detestable existence.

「But 'cha know, there's one thing first, how do we make a clan anyways?」
(Megu)

「If I remember..... I think we need to clear some kind of quest first」(Suzu)

「Hey Ed, do you know?」(Megu)

「.....ツ」(Ran)

Not wanting to be involved, Ran was trying his best to become one with the air.

If there was something they did not know then before consulting the Wiki they should ask the re-starting player who is Ran; the group had grown accustomed

to this process.

「.....If you clear a『Delivery Quest』, the so-called Clan Quest, then then you should be able to make one」

「Delivery Quest?」

“What’s that?” asked Megu.

「It’s a quest where you deliver specific items to the Hunter’s Guild. You can accept the quest anywhere that there is a Hunter’s Guild, and the rarity of the delivery items shouldn’t be that high either. If the work is split up, then you can finish the quest in a day」

「Wow! If so then it’s perfect for us. We won’t even have to travel far for it」

Clapping her hands together, Megu looked like she was in high spirits. The Clan Quest is a so-called『Busywork Quest』. It primarily consisted of crafting goods, and the ingredients you had to gather for it were nothing but a hassle to obtain.

Busywork quests had no fun in them, and although the majority of players loathe doing them, right now their group seems to feel the opposite and welcome the challenge.

Recently the『Lunch Break Meeting』of Ran and the others had many things on the agenda. From ‘What may have sparked the Samurai Hunting’, to ‘How they are suppose to have fun while waiting for the video uploaded by those colluding players to be deleted’, those type of subjects.

Crescendo has continued to be their base of operations, but considering that Suzu and Megu were attacked at the『Rabasta Woodlands』that was a bit separated from Crescendo, they haven’t been playing in areas too far just in case they need to take shelter in city.

Because of this their actions were restricted. Recently they have taken to enjoying the port city’s specialties; they spend most of their playtime lazing around while『Fishing』.

「Edogawa, what kind of goods will we have to deliver?」

「It changes every time. Most of the time it’s something like weapons or armor. More or less as the Story goes, it is apparently like a form of payment for having the Guild approve the creation of a Hunters Team, something like that」

「I see. So in other words, we accept the quest at the Guild, and then gather the ingredients and craft the items huh. Sounds great」

Having finally found something to do other than fishing, Andou was getting excited.

If you are going to craft goods then you are going to need ingredients. Although they can't go too far from Crescendo, they will still be able to do some long-awaited Mob hunting.

「Then, should we all gather at the Hunter's Guild today?」

「Totally! I'm getting real pumped up about this now!」

In response to Suzu's suggestion, Yamabuki's eyes lit up with the same flare they possess when he comes across a girl that suits his fancy.

However, Ran was the only one who seemed indifferent; he continued to emit a melancholic aura.

Up until now Ran had held a principle to never participate in these type of organizations.

However, Ran was tormented by inner conflict.

Everyone seems so enthusiastic, so if I'm the only one to oppose then it would only ruin the mood. I guess I should help out. I'm a bit happy that I can be in the same clan as Suzu-san, but I can only hope and pray that things won't end up like the last clan I was in, huh.

But still-

「So it's come to this huh, 'a clan'...」

Letting out a sigh, Ran turned his gaze over to the window. As if reflecting how he felt down inside, the thick clouds blocking out the sky continued to pour down heavy rain.

TL Side Note: A rather gloomy end huh.

Footnotes:

[1.](#)

TL note: The original word here is [俊敏性]/ "Shunbin-sei", which means

“Resourceful”, “Cunning”, “Swift Judgement”, *etc.*

I went with DEX since the only direct conversion I could find was “Speed” but I suppose it could be referring to something else like WIS or INT, or even just Speed. If anyone knows for sure/has a better suggestion then please feel free to let me know.

Just thought I’d point it out since the original text doesn’t directly say “DEX”.

[2.](#)

TL note: So to point out some math, Edgar cut the branch into 9 pieces, meaning that he used Razor Blaze a total of 8 times. In comparison, Aran can cut it into 16 pieces for a total of 15 Razor Blazes, so about twice as many times.

[3.](#)

Side Note: Both of these lines “In order to participate in the Grand Mission, I’ll put up with having to deal with the gross Edogawa-kun” and “I, I always wanted to talk with Edogawa-kun” were thought up by Ran in [chapter 3](#).

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